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MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

OF THE

Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

OF THE

UNION.

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1900.

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

OF THE

Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

OF THE

UNION.

HELD AT MOUNT VERNON, VA.

May, 1900.

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KANSAS CITY, MO.:  
HUDSON-KIMBERLY PUBLISHING COMPANY.  
1900.

24

**OFFICERS**  
**OF THE**  
**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.**

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*Regent.*

**MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND,**  
Winter Address, 45 East 68th St., New York City.  
Summer Address, Southampton, Long Island, Care Gen. Thos. Barber.

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*Vice-Regents.*

**MRS. ALEX. MITCHELL,** Milwaukee, Wis.; Winter Address, Jacksonville, Fla.  
**MRS. LETITIA H. WALKER,** Spray, Rockingham Co., N. C.  
**MRS. MARY T. BARNES,** 1722 H St., Washington, D. C.  
**MRS. MARGARET J. M. SWEAT,** Care A. W. Coombs, Portland, Me.  
**MRS. S. E. JOHNSON HUDSON,** Stratford, Conn.  
**MRS. EMMA R. BALL,** 115 East Franklin St., Richmond, Va.  
**MISS ALICE M. LONGFELLOW,** Cambridge, Mass.  
**MRS. MILAN L. WARD,** 703 South Poplar St., Ottawa, Kan.  
**MRS. IDA A. RICHARDSON,** 2426 Prytanla St., New Orleans, La.  
**MRS. ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,** 114 North Division St., Ann Arbor, Mich.  
**MRS. L. Z. LEITER,** Box L, Chicago, Ill.  
**MRS. N. P. HILL,** 531 Fourteenth St., Denver, Col.  
**MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,** Box 153, Dover, Del.  
**MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST,** Pleasanton, Cal.; 1400 New Hampshire Ave., Washington, D. C.  
**MRS. CHARLES E. FLANDRAU,** 385 Pleasant Ave., St. Paul, Minn.  
**MRS. A. R. WINDER,** 42 Islington St., Portsmouth, N. H.  
**MRS. FANNY G. BAKER,** 121 East Monroe St., Jacksonville, Fla.

MRS. JOSEPH A. WILDER, 93 Charlton St., Savannah, Ga.  
 MRS. GEO. R. GOLDSBOROUGH, 417 North Charles St., Baltimore,  
 Md.; Summer Address, "Ashby," near Easton, Talbot Co., Md.  
 MRS. FRANCIS S. CONOVER, Princeton, N. J.  
 MRS. BENJ. GRAHAM, 5145 Lindell Ave., St. Louis, Mo.  
 MRS. THOS. SHAPARD WEBB, "Middlebrook," Knoxville, Tenn.  
 MISS AMY TOWNSEND, Care Isaac Townsend, Union Club, Fifth  
 Ave. and 121st St., New York City.  
 MRS. WM. AMES, 121 Power St., Providence, R. I.  
 MRS. CHAS. C. HARRISON, 1618 Locust St., Philadelphia, Pa.;  
 Summer Address, Devon, Pa.  
 MRS. THOS. MAXEY, Austin, Texas.  
 MRS. JAMES E. CAMPBELL, Hamilton, Butler Co., Ohio.

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*Secretary of Councils.*

JENNIE MEEKER WARD.....Ottawa, Kan.

*Treasurer.*

MR. E. FRANCIS RIGGS.....Washington, D. C.

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*Resident Superintendent.*

MR. HARRISON H. DODGE.....Mt. Vernon-on-Potomac, Va.

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*Resident Assistant Superintendent.*

MR. JAMES YOUNG.....Mt. Vernon-on-Potomac, Va.

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*Advisory Committee.*

CHIEF-JUSTICE FULLER..U. S. Supreme Court, Washington, D. C.  
 MR. JAMES CARTER.....277 Lexington Ave., New York City.  
 HON. THOS. M. McCARTER.....Newark, N. J.

# MT. VERNON.

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1900.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL.

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FIRST DAY—THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1900.

### *Morning Session.*

Council met at 10 o'clock a. m., Regent presiding.

Meeting called to order.

Reading of scripture and repeating the Lord's prayer.

Roll called.

Present:

MRS. J. V. R. TOWNSEND, Regent.

MRS. WALKER, Vice-Regent for North Carolina.

MRS. SWEAT, Vice-Regent for Maine.

MRS. HUDSON, Vice-Regent for Connecticut.

MRS. BALL, Vice-Regent for Virginia.

MRS. FLANDRAU, Vice-Regent for Minnesota.

MRS. WARD, Vice-Regent for Kansas.

MISS COMEGYS, Vice-Regent for Delaware.

MRS. AMES, Vice-Regent for Rhode Island.

MRS. HARRISON, Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania.

MISS TOWNSEND, Vice-Regent for New York.

MRS. MAXEY, Vice-Regent for Texas.

MRS. WINDER, Vice-Regent for New Hampshire.

The Regent called for the reading of the minutes of 1899, which were read by the Secretary.

At 11 o'clock the reading was interrupted by a request to grant an interview to Mr. W. H. Snowden. Moved by Mrs. Walker, Vice-Regent for North Carolina, that the re-

quest be granted; seconded by Mrs. Ball, and carried. Mr. Snowden has resided for forty years in the near neighborhood of Mount Vernon.\* He was accompanied by Miss Eugenie De Land, who brought a portrait of General Washington, painted by herself, and neatly framed. It was copied from the rare steel engraving of Joseph Wright, found in the *Literary Magazine*, published in London, August 1, 1792. The flesh tints were closely studied from Gilbert Stuart's portrait of Washington in the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the uniform from the original in the National Museum. When Joseph Wright was desirous of procuring a sitting, he was refused in consequence of the exacting cares and duties of the first President. The artist, however, was determined in his purpose, and the President being a regular attendant at St. Paul's Chapel, Broadway, New York, where a canopied pew had been prepared for his use, Wright obtained permission from the occupant of one immediately opposite to use that position for a Sunday morning or two to take a miniature profile likeness of the President in crayon, as he sat entirely unconscious of the act. This the artist etched and published on a card, which became very rare, three impressions only having been known. This portrait was claimed then to be one of the most correct likenesses of George Washington, who was at that time sixty years of age. This picture she wished to present to the Association, to be kept at Mount Vernon. The gift was accepted with thanks.

Reading of minutes resumed.

Adjourned at 12:30.

#### *Afternoon Session.*

Council met at 2 o'clock.

Reading of minutes concluded.

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\*Mr. Snowden subsequently made a gift of fifty copies of his pamphlet, "Memorials of Washington," which was highly appreciated.

Mrs. Baker, Vice-Regent for Florida, arrived by boat.  
 Telegram received from Mrs. Richardson, Vice-Regent  
 for Louisiana:

New Orleans, La., May 10, 1900.

*Mrs. Townsend, Mount Vernon:*

To my dear Regent, and all the ladies assembled in Grand Council to-day, my loving greetings, with sincere regret I cannot be with you.  
 Your suffering sister, *Ida A. Richardson.*

Regent reported a letter received from Mrs. Barnes, Vice-Regent for the District of Columbia, who is ill at her home in Washington; also a letter from Mrs. N. P. Hill, Vice-Regent for Colorado, who is detained at home by the severe illness of her husband.\* Great regret for the absence of these ladies and sympathy for their affliction was expressed by all present.

The Vice-Regent for Maryland, Mrs. George R. Goldsborough, sent a pair of silver candlesticks, with glass shades, heirlooms in the Goldsborough family, which she presented to the Association, in compliance with the will and bequest of her late husband. These were gratefully accepted, and a letter of thanks forwarded to Mrs. Goldsborough.

She also sent a pair of silver candlesticks which belonged originally at Mount Vernon (inherited by Mrs. Goldsborough from her great-grandmother, Mrs. Washington), which she offered for sale. Moved by the Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania, seconded by the Vice-Regent for Virginia, that the Association secure from Mrs. Goldsborough, the Vice-Regent for Maryland, the silver candlesticks that originally belonged at Mount Vernon. Carried.

Regent presented a letter from Mrs. M. Clarkson, Vice-Regent for Nebraska, expressing her regret that her many duties prevented her from attending Councils, and tendering her resignation from the Association. Resignation accepted with regret.

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\*Hon. N. P. Hill, ex-Senator from Colorado, died at his home in Denver, May 22, 1900.



Miss McFadden, of New York, has for years sent an annual gift of a flag to Mount Vernon.

The following letter accompanied the gift of two flags to this Council:

1307 Main Street, Peekskill, N. Y.

*Mrs. Justine V. R. Townsend:*

Dear Madam,—Your kind invitation to be present on May fifteenth at Mount Vernon I will have to decline with many thanks, because of my advanced age of ninety-one years, much as I would like to be with you, for I have been taught from early childhood to reverence the name of Washington. If not in person, I will be with you in thought.

Respectfully yours,

*Sarah A. McFadden.*

April 24, 1900.

Mrs. Richardson, from the Relic Committee, sent a bound volume containing a list of all relics in possession of the Association, carefully arranged to signify whether acquired by purchase, loan, or gift.

Adjourned at 5:30 p. m.

## SECOND DAY—FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1900.

### *Morning Session.*

Council met at 9:30 a. m., Regent presiding.

Devotional exercises.

Roll called.

Present:

MRS. WALKER, Vice-Regent for North Carolina.

MRS. SWEAT, Vice-Regent for Maine.

MRS. HUDSON, Vice-Regent for Connecticut.

MRS. BALL, Vice-Regent for Virginia.

MRS. FLANDRAU, Vice-Regent for Minnesota.

MRS. WARD, Vice-Regent for Kansas.

MRS. HARRISON, Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania.

MRS. AMES, Vice-Regent for Rhode Island.

MRS. MAXEY, Vice-Regent for Texas.

MRS. BAKER, Vice-Regent for Florida.

MRS. WINDER, Vice-Regent for New Hampshire.

MISS COMEGYS, Vice-Regent for Delaware.

MISS TOWNSEND, Vice-Regent for New York.

Minutes of previous day corrected and accepted.

Regent read her annual report, as follows:

#### REGENT'S REPORT.

Dear Ladies,—It is with a happiness quite different from all other pleasures of the year that we meet here, annually, at this sacred shrine, and each year seems to deepen and strengthen the ties which bind us in this sweet work of love.

We rejoice that so many of us have been enabled to gather together each year; as one or another of the senior members is passing to a higher life, this work must be taken up by those that remain. It is the highest patriotic work of which any country can boast—to have saved to America the Home and Tomb of the world's greatest, most distinguished citizen.

We find to-day one vacant chair; the face and form of our dear sister from South Carolina may no longer be with us, but ever in spirit she will be here. Mrs. Lucy H. Pickens is one never to be forgotten; her presence shed brightness and sunshine, her face a spell of beauty; her voice like music, her gentle, bewitching manner, her grace, her wit, her brilliant mind, all conspired to make her a subtle spirit of fascination. Such was she in the early days; but later in life came to her the heavy clouds of sorrow which enshrouded her. Her grief was heart-breaking; it was pathetic. Our sister hearts were filled with deepest sympathy. But hers was not a weak character; she realized the responsibilities devolving upon her, and roused herself to energy; gleams of happiness arose in her heart, which cheered and brightened her little family circle. When she was last with us, her interest was again kindled in Mount Vernon, and I had hoped we should see her here this year in her accustomed seat. But, alas! her last heavy blow was more than her shattered heart could bear; she suc-

cumbed, and passed to her rest and to her dear ones gone before.

You will find, ladies, some changes at Mount Vernon, but so carefully concealed that they do not offend the eye. As a safeguard against the danger of fire, the Association determined to minimize the danger by the introduction of a hot-water plant, not liable to explosions; no overheating or charring of woodwork; it is a pronounced success, and an unspeakable comfort to all the cabins on the Estate. The feature of intrinsic value in this hot-water plant is its drying power. No amount of furnace heat or of fires, hitherto, has conquered the humidity of the cellar and foundation walls, and this humidity was gradually destroying the brick walls and rotting the beams; this danger is now overcome.

Another improvement is the Artesian well, which at first seemed a doubtful scheme and caused no little anxiety, but, after great expense in the different efforts and methods, a sufficient amount of pure drinkable water was finally obtained.

The enlargement of our Deer Park, which was so much needed, is already proving its value, and our increasing sale of deer will compensate largely for the small expenditure.

Another beautiful feature of the place is the Gateway at the railroad entrance, modeled after the Gateway on the Alexandria Road, so colonial and in keeping with all the architecture of the Estate that it forms a charming addition to the entrance to the Home of Washington.

The Vice-Regent for Texas should be congratulated upon her signal success, and her State owes her a large debt of gratitude that the money bestowed has been so judiciously expended, in a structure so much in harmony with its surroundings.

Our steamboat was tied up the 31st of December, and it began to run on the 22d of February, 1900, the birth-

day of Washington, when great crowds were present here—900 Daughters of the American Revolution. The Tomb was, as usual, handsomely decorated, and its picturesque appearance elicited many encomiums.

One of the most impressive and heart-thrilling events of the past year occurred here on the 14th of December, 1899, the Centennial Commemoration of the Funeral of the great Washington, under the auspices of the Masonic Order of the State of Colorado. This celebration was an exact replica of the original funeral; five of the pall-bearers being descendants of the original bearers. It was indeed a tribute of esteem and affection on the part of the thousands who came to do honor to our Nation's Founder. The President, his Cabinet and suite, and the high officers of the Masonic Order came by the Electric Railway. They were ushered into the Banquet Hall, where our Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, represented by the Regent and six Vice-Regents, held their reception. The gentlemen soon passed into the Central Hall, where a vast number had assembled in order to see and to shake hands with President McKinley. By this time the steamboat had arrived. All the crowd then stepped to the Piazza, as the Masons, in their picturesque costume, marched up the hill to the sound of solemn music, passed the front of the Piazza, northward, and in a few minutes the second line was passing the Deer Park. The effect was most impressive, the upper and lower lines marching solemnly toward the old Tomb. There the Chaplain offered a prayer, an address was made, and the musicians again played a solemn dirge, as all proceeded to the new Tomb. We ladies went there, where seats were provided for us. Then another prayer and an address by a distinguished Grand Master, a most interesting service; as this official asked of each of the original thirteen States, "What message has New Hampshire sent here to-day?" each State responded in some appropriate sentiment of honor and affection, and, passing into the

Tomb, laid its wreath or emblem upon the Tomb of Washington. The question was then asked of the District of Columbia and of all the non-colonial States in the order of their entrance into the Union. It was a solemn and most interesting ceremony. The ladies did not wait for the end of the address, but went back to the East Piazza, where President McKinley was to make his address. Crowds such as I have rarely seen were gathered here, although we had left an equally dense one at the Tomb. The address of the President ended, the multitude left to take the cars, and we adjourned to our lunch-room in the Kansas Building, inviting the two daughters of John Augustine Washington (the last owner of the estate), their families and friends; also the sons, one of whom came from Charlestown; and Mr. Wm. De Hertburn Washington, son of our late Vice-Regent from West Virginia, who came on for this occasion. They were much pleased by our cordial insistence that they should all join us. This was a pleasant feature of the day—to see all these near relatives of the family, who were born and bred at Mount Vernon, and to have the pleasure of offering them the courtesy and hospitality of the old homestead.

After this crowd had left, a company of the Red Men, another Masonic Order, arrived to place a banner and a wreath (and a superb one it was) upon the Tomb of Washington. They returned at once to town.

The weight of responsibility upon our Superintendent was something not easily to be expressed. In no part of the grounds or at either of the two entrances was any friction seen. It was really marvelous that no *contretemps* occurred during the entire day.

The next morning we all drove down to the Tomb to see a magnificent sight—the sarcophagi, walls, ceilings, gates, and outside decorated with masses of the most beautiful and fragrant flowers. The four remaining ladies

planted a cedar of Lebanon shoot near the Tomb, to mark the first Centennial of Washington's death.

I have given you this hasty sketch of the event here, on this memorable day, just to place the scene before you; but our able writer, Mrs. Rathbone, has written a fine description of it, which will soon be printed in one of our monthly magazines, and will be a valuable addition to the Mount Vernon Library.

What impressed me most forcibly during the day, as we were standing upon the Piazza, was the thought of the scene which had been enacted in the room above, the dying hours of the great hero, perhaps, as a fully rounded character, the greatest man that has ever lived—so simple, modest, and unaffected, so free from all vanity and all littleness—now lying there so calm and patient and resigned. Little did he dream of this pageant of his Centenary! But the grandeur of the whole occasion was its universality. It was not Massachusetts, where began his first work as Commander-in-Chief; nor New York, where he was inaugurated as the first President of the United States, which he had formed into a country; nor was it Pennsylvania, where Congress was held for several years; nor New Jersey, so covered with battle-fields, where so many victories and defeats took place; nor Delaware; nor Maryland, where battles were also fought; nor Virginia, his native State, where the grand last victory of the war assured us a country; it was not from North or South Carolina or Georgia, the first two constant battle-fields, where victories and defeats also alternated and where heroes were created; not from any of these States did the idea of this Centennial Commemoration emanate, but from the Masonic Order of Colorado, a State unheard of in Washington's day, the vast western region of our country; proving the intense love and admiration which, instead of diminishing with the flight of years, has grown and strengthened throughout this

immense land, in honor of the virtues and glory of this revered man, this glorious hero, this beloved President—George Washington.

To return now to Mount Vernon work: Notwithstanding the great upheavals (as one would suppose) in the building of the water plant and the laying of the hundreds of feet of piping, scarcely any disturbance was observable. The *débris* was removed as rapidly as possible, so that no comments upon improvements were made.

Mr. Dodge's health was much broken in August, but he felt it impossible to leave, with anxiety concerning the success of the Artesian well hanging over him; but by September the last drill ensured success, and his friend in the Adirondacks urged an immediate visit, as he was shortly to close his camp. I telegraphed him to go, and he was much benefited after ten days or so.

You ladies may not have learned the good news of our Treasurer's return from Europe. Mr. Riggs bears testimony to the good work of our Superintendent, in his care of the Finance Department. Already have two mortgages been extended, one for five and a second for three years, at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent investments; this, according to the times, is good interest.

To Mrs. Hearst, our generous Vice-Regent for California, we are indebted for another gift of \$2,500 towards the extension of the Sea-wall. Two gigantic works—the reclamation of the large swamp, now a beautiful pasture, and this saving of the Mount Vernon land against the invasion of the river tides and freshets—have been made possible by her liberality.

There have been received:

From Mr. S. P. Avery, of New York, 4 books: Washington Letters, 2 volumes; "The Memory of Washington," "The Tomb of Washington."

From Mr. John E. Farnham, of Boston, a Washington chair.

From Mrs. Joseph R. Lamar, of Georgia, 6 banana shrubs

From Mr. Wm. R. Smith, Superintendent of National Botanical



Gardens, 3 books for the Library, a cedar of Lebanon, agaves, and other plants.

From Mr. Wm. O. McDowell, of Newark, N. J., "Ethan Allen; A Drama of the Revolution."

From Colonel Hilary A. Herbert, "The First American."

From Commander R. G. Davenport, U. S. N., engraving which hung at Mount Vernon.

From Miss Sarah McFadden, of Peekskill, N. Y., her annual gift of two flags.

From Mr. H. Folger, of San Francisco, \$1.00.

Our Superintendent is unremitting in his devotion to duty, and this year his duties have been very heavy. The hot-water plant, the Artesian well, which caused serious anxiety, the Deer Park extension, some very large crowds of people, the additional finance duty, and, finally, the Centennial Commemoration, which required forethought and management in every line, and which was crowned with success. All these combined drew heavily upon the physical and nervous powers of our Superintendent, but he has rallied now, and all is well that ends well.

Mr. Young has also faithfully performed his various duties with the same regularity and energy, and he was of great assistance at the Commemoration, in aiding the crowds in every way possible.

Mr. Whelan has had a pleasant "outing" this spring—an invitation to visit Florida, which country he had never seen. The trip benefited him, but I find he prefers Mount Vernon to more Southern lands.

The Garden looks always, as it cannot fail to do, pretty and attractive. The box fence I shall never see in its glory again, but I trust you others of the Garden Committee will do all that is possible to reanimate it. Some changes have been made in our roll of employees; those now with us give entire satisfaction.

Mrs. Vickers, our Housekeeper, does her responsible work with faithfulness, and one and all deserve high commendation.

Trusting that the providential care which has blessed Mount Vernon hitherto may be continued to us in the future, I am,

Your friend and Regent,

*Justine V. R. Townsend.*

The thanks of Council were unanimously given to the Regent for her able report of the year's events connected with Mount Vernon.

Mrs. Sweat, of Maine, read a most appreciative notice of Mrs. Pickens, late Vice-Regent for South Carolina, who died August 8, 1899:

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## OBITUARY

of

*Mrs. Lucy Holcomb Pickens.*

“‘To live is to outlive,’ and in few situations does this melancholy thought come to mind more forcibly than in this organization, which, nearing its own half-century of existence, has parted, one by one, with those whose patriotism and energy gave it birth. Our death-roll numbers largely; our comrades have fallen around us, and those who succeed to their honors and their responsibilities will soon know them only as names on the long list of Vice-Regents of the Association. For myself, I now stand third in the order of seniority of appointment, and it has often been my sad privilege to offer spoken tribute to those who entered our ranks at an early day in the history of the Association. Of these, the subject of the present sketch, Mrs. Lucy Holcomb Pickens, the Vice-Regent for South Carolina, was appointed at the same Council as myself, in 1866, and the personal ties which soon united us were of the closest. To all of you who knew her, she was dear and

honored; but to me she was the loving friend, the sympathetic companion, the tender sharer of my inner thoughts.

“Her life presented very unusual and interesting contrasts and vicissitudes. Under any social conditions her unusual beauty and singular charm of manner would have marked out a shining pathway for her lovely womanhood, and she would have received frequent tributes of admiration in times of quietness and peace. But a wider career was to be hers. Married at an early age to one high in official position, her honeymoon was spent in one of the most brilliant courts in Europe, where her name is still remembered. Her only child was born in St. Petersburg, and royal godmothers stood sponsors for her. The little girl soon received an endearing title, which clung to her through life—she was always called by the soft Russian diminutive, Douschka.

“Mrs. Pickens returned with her husband to take a still more important part in the affairs of this country, and, after a brief dream of empire, to add a pathetic agony over the ‘Lost Cause’ to the many trials and sorrows that strewn her path for the rest of her life. The imaginary kingdom, which to many was only an ill-considered political experiment, was to her a glorious reality, a faith, a religion, and she gave it a loyalty that only strengthened as it became hopeless. Those of us who can sympathize with emotions which we do not share can do justice to her constancy, and even understand how her intense sorrow over this lost ideal grew to a passionate pain, as it swept away her friends, her fortune, and, as she expressed it, her country.

“To describe the peculiar charm of Mrs. Pickens would be difficult, but its influence was felt and acknowledged without stint. Delightful contrasts of sunshine and sadness, of womanly dignity and childlike coquetry, of brilliant wit and tender rhapsody, of simplicity and shrewd-

ness, made her a companion to be eagerly sought by the many distinguished people whom it was her lot to meet. Her courage neyer faltered, her heart never grew cold, her perceptions never deadened, her grace never wholly left her, in spite of broken fortunes and broken health.

"I could linger long over the precious remembrances which crowd the record of the many years we were companions at our meetings here, and which drew us together in other ways. I recall her love of flowers and her mysterious kinship with them all, till, as she stood among them in a garden, she seemed to be one more of the roses which blossomed in the sunlight. Her tender consideration of those beneath her showed a generosity of nature undiminished by her own sorrows and privations. Her relationship to the emancipated slaves upon her ruined plantation always retained something of the old characteristics, and, while she was indulgent to their weaknesses and helpful in their troubles, she was treated by them with the same deference as of old, receiving from them a devotion which led them to cluster around her when illness and death came to her. Loving hands of the blackest hue carried her daughter, and afterwards herself, to the grave, and a few old house servants had long waited upon her as reverently as if she had always remained queen over her little colony. Such tribute is more eloquent than any words that I can utter."



The Vice-Regent for North Carolina moved that the beautiful memorial tribute to Mrs. L. Pickens be inserted in the Report; seconded by the Vice-Regent for Florida. Carried.

The Regent called for the State Reports.

During the reading of the reports, Miss Longfellow, of Massachusetts, arrived.

## CALIFORNIA STATE REPORT.

Hacienda del Pozo de Verona,  
Pleasanton, Alameda County, California.

The Vice-Regent for the State of California is unavoidably prevented from attending Council this year, and regrets very much her inability to be present.

The Vice-Regent begs to report that the continued work on the construction of the Sea-wall has satisfactorily progressed, and that, according to the Superintendent's report, 570 feet of wall was built during the past current year, at a cost of \$2,626.28. It is hoped that the entire construction of the wall will be completed before January 1, 1901, which will not only add very materially to the appearance of the Estate, but will prevent the gradual encroachment of the river thereon.

*Phoebe A. Hearst,*  
Vice-Regent for California.

## COLORADO STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Colorado deeply regrets not being able to attend Council on account of illness in her family.

*Alice Hill,*  
Vice-Regent for Colorado.

## CONNECTICUT STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Connecticut begs leave to report a gift of twenty-five dollars from Mrs. Ellen Rapelje Peabody, for Mount Vernon, as authorized by Mrs. E. H. Hubbard, of Hartford, Connecticut. One hundred and fifty dollars of her gift of two hundred dollars was appropriated to the Artesian Well Fund.

Two sofa cushions for the Superintendent's Room were provided by the Vice-Regent for Connecticut.

From Mr. Fiske, of Alossio, Italiane Riviera, a quantity of flower seeds.

*Susan E. Johnson Hudson,*  
Vice-Regent for Connecticut.

## DELAWARE STATE REPORT.

No report.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

No report.

## FLORIDA STATE REPORT.

The work of a sick, feeble woman seems hardly worthy of a report: the sending out of the records of 1899; the writing of an article for the woman's issue of a daily Jacksonville paper, in the interest of Mount Vernon; the gift to the Library Committee of a volume of General G. Washington's letters, written while in camp during the War for Independence. Not being able to attend the Centennial services at Mount Vernon, on the 14th of December, 1899, sent a characteristic Florida winter wreath of holly, moss, and palms.

*Fanny Gilchrist Baker,*  
Vice-Regent for Florida.

## GEORGIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Georgia reports the gift of a mahogany arm-chair for the Office.

She deeply regrets being unable to attend the Council.

*Georgia P. Wilder,*  
Vice-Regent for Georgia.

## ILLINOIS STATE REPORT.

No report.

## KANSAS STATE REPORT.

Except the one dollar annually given by Mrs. Sleeper, of Iola, no money has been added to the State fund this year. Interest in Mount Vernon seems to be increasing, and I have responded to four invitations to present papers on Mount Vernon and its history before societies and schools.

A number of persons from this vicinity have visited the place, and all speak in praise of the beauty of the spot

and of the courtesy shown by the Superintendent and his associates.

I have expended, of the \$52.00 Kansas fund, the sum of \$39.25 for furniture for bedroom in Kansas Quarters; leaving a balance still in hand of \$12.75.

*Jennie M. Ward,*  
Vice-Regent for Kansas.

#### LOUISIANA STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Louisiana regrets exceedingly that illness prevents her attending Council. She sends a bound volume containing lists of relics for the Relic Committee.

*Ida A. Richardson,*  
Vice-Regent for Louisiana.

#### MARYLAND STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Maryland reports having received from

Christ Church, Cambridge, offering, December 14, 1899.....	\$ 8.52
Annual penny contribution from little school-boys, on Washington's Birthday.. . . . .	.75
Rockville Chapter, Mt. Vernon Society of Maryland.....	4.50
Society Daughters of the American Revolution.....	25.00
Mt. Vernon Association of the Public Schools of Baltimore....	190.00
	<hr/>
	\$228.77

*E. A. Goldsborough,*  
Vice-Regent for Maryland.

Enclosed a check for \$224.29.

Ashby, near Easton, Md., May 3, 1900.

Dear Mrs. Townsend,—You will remember that my husband, Mr. Geo. R. Goldsborough, gave to Mount Vernon, some few years ago, the pair of candlesticks with shades that you saw in our home on the Eastern Shore. I now send them to Mount Vernon, in the hope that they may be deemed worthy of a place there.

Affectionately yours, *E. A. Goldsborough.*



## MAINE STATE REPORT.

Absence from the country for a few months prevents a full report of affairs in the State, except that the copies of the Annual Report were distributed through the usual channels.

I take pleasure in offering to Council, for the use of the Greenhouse, the amount necessary to pay for the resetting of the fifteen fine palms, now requiring more ample opportunity for their roots. They are proof of excellent care, and I hope that before long better winter accommodation will be given to their spreading foliage.

*Margaret J. M. Sweat,*  
Vice-Regent for Maine.

## MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPORT.

I have distributed the printed Reports, and at the request of the Librarian have placed a complete file of Reports in Harvard College Library. The interest and affection for Mount Vernon shows no signs of diminishing, as is testified by the deep interest of the Patriotic Societies, before whom I have read a paper on the Mount Vernon Association. I have in this way collected fifty-five dollars, besides keeping the matter before the public.

Lucy Jackson Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution.....	\$10.00
Bunker Hill Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution.....	10.00
Old South Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution.....	5.00
Miss Derby (annual).....	5.00
Mrs. M. Carey, Tea.....	25.00
	<hr/>
	\$55.00

Some additional furnishing has been added to the Massachusetts Room in the East Quarters. In the Library it has been thought advisable to place a bar, which allows the public to pass through the room without injury to the furniture.

My sisters and I desire to present three small relics to the Association: a medal commemorating the trial of

Major André, a medal commemorating the death of George Washington, a small cross made from the wood of Washington's coffin.

Respectfully submitted. *Alice M. Longfellow,*  
Vice-Regent for Massachusetts.

#### MICHIGAN STATE REPORT.

The report of the Vice-Regent for Michigan for the year ending the 10th of May, 1900, can be briefly stated, as it consists mainly of the statement forwarded by the President of the Detroit Mount Vernon Society. The annual contribution of the Society will reach the sum of \$250.00. This is made up of the proceeds of the annual Mount Vernon Tea, held on the 22d of February, and the annual dues of the members. Under the direction of Mrs. Mary E. Gibbons, the President, the Society continues to do excellent work, both through the papers read at the quarterly meetings, which are often of unusual literary and historical interest, and by strengthening the hands of the Vice-Regent in supplying her with funds for her work at Mount Vernon. The sum of fifty dollars appropriated last year for this object has been applied to the repairing of the old sofa, contributed by Mrs. Hudson, the Vice-Regent for Connecticut.

Receipts.....	\$250.00
Appropriation to Greenhouse.....	10.00

Respectfully submitted. *Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone,*  
Vice-Regent for Michigan.

#### MINNESOTA STATE REPORT.

No report.

#### MISSOURI STATE REPORT.

I send a draft from the Patriotic Societies, for \$62.36, which is especially gratifying as an indication of continued interest. This sum is to be added to the Endowment Fund.

*C. B. Graham,*  
Vice-Regent for Missouri.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for New Hampshire reports, in regard to the present condition of the "Sarah King Hale Fund": This fund (original deposit, \$71.50) was, by consent of Council, permitted to remain on deposit in the Cheshire Provident Institution, Keene, New Hampshire, where it had been undiscovered for many years.

She regrets to report that, soon after its restoration to our Association, this bank was closed during the panic which overtook many of the New Hampshire savings banks at that time.

She further reports that a new bank, the Cheshire County Savings Bank, has since been organized to take over the business of the Provident Institution, and in which to this time has been deposited to the credit of this fund, by transfer of assets and dividends, 60 per cent of the original amount as named by us—\$320.82—now, with interest, \$209.12; the understanding being that not exceeding 50 per cent of such deposits should be withdrawn within two years from July 1, 1898.

She would suggest that when the affairs of the Provident Institution are finally wound up, she be authorized to turn over this fund to the Treasurer of the Mount Vernon Association, for such investment as he may deem proper.

*Abby R. Winder,*

Vice-Regent for New Hampshire.

May 10, 1900.

## NEW JERSEY STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for New Jersey regrets extremely that she is prevented from attending the Council this year. She takes pleasure in reporting the following contributions from her State:

Mount Vernon Society of Trenton.....	\$22.00
Mount Vernon Society of Plainfield.....	25.00
Mount Vernon Society of Elizabeth.....	10.00
Mount Vernon Society of Princeton, Newark, Camden.....	30.00
Colonial Dames of Trenton.....	10.00
Miss Clark, of Belvidere.....	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$107.00

One hundred dollars is appropriated to the Regent, to use at her discretion.

*Helen Field Conover,*  
Vice-Regent for New Jersey.

#### NEW YORK STATE REPORT.

The principal object of my work for the last two years has been the restoration of the Family Kitchen. I have studied the customs of the period here and in England, and with the assistance of the Superintendent, who visited some of the oldest homes in Virginia and secured drawings of articles, have collected copper and pewter plates, iron utensils of the time of General Washington, with dressers, table and chairs, crane, hooks, pots and kettles, smoke-jack, iron pot, and turning-spit. To this has been added a gift from the Vice-Regent of Rhode Island of an iron pot in which stirabout was cooked for General Washington on his march over Pawtucket Pike towards Boston.

I have also endeavored to secure from the Electric Railway management some needed improvements at each end of the line which would add greatly to the comfort of visitors to Mount Vernon. I have also gotten six chairs and a table cover for the dining-room connected with the Office.

*Amy C. Townsend,*  
Vice-Regent for the State of New York.

#### NORTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.

It gives me pleasure to report the distribution of 60 copies of Stuart's portrait of Washington to the principal institutions of learning in my State. Donors to Portrait Fund:

Mrs. L. M. Fries.....	\$ 8 00
Mrs. L. L. Morehead.....	5.00
Mrs. Moses Cone.....	2.00
Mr. George Watts.....	5.00
Mr. B. F. McVane.....	10.00
Mr. R. L. Patterson.....	10.00
Mr. B. N. Duke.....	10.00
Mr. D. A. Tompkins.....	1.00
Mr. Sol. Weil.....	2.00
Mecklenburg Chapter, D. A. R.....	6.00
	<hr/>
	\$59.00

Mrs. J. H. Smith, of Greensboro', presents to the Association a newspaper dated January, 1800.

*L. H. Walker,*  
Vice-Regent for North Carolina.

#### OHIO STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Ohio would report the gift of a rug for the Ohio Room. This rug was used for the first time when a reception was given for Lafayette in Providence, R. I., in the early part of the nineteenth century.

*Elizabeth Owens Campbell,*  
Vice-Regent for Ohio.

May, 1900.

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania regrets she has so meager a report to present to the Council of *work done*, but illness must be her excuse. All of the reports of the Association sent to Pennsylvania were carefully distributed last year.

The Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania brings to the Council two articles for the approval of the committee: one, an old-fashioned bedspread for the Pennsylvania Room, with the accompanying note from Mrs. McIlvaine; the other, a bureau cover presented by Mrs. Getchell, that belonged to Mrs. Lear, wife of Washington's secretary. An old fender, shovel and tongs, and irons with brass holders have been

added to Pennsylvania's room, as well as a reproduction of an old-style pair of glass candlesticks, with glass shade to screen candles.

The Vice-Regent hopes to secure four old rush-bottom bedroom chairs, in good condition, for the Pennsylvania Room, to replace the heavy mahogany chairs that are in the room at present.

The Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania attended the Masonic memorial services held at Mount Vernon on December 14th.

Mr. Charles Custis Harrison sends his annual subscription to Mount Vernon of \$50.00.

My dear Mrs. Harrison,—I am sending the long-promised cover. I regret that I could not get for it blue knitted lace (old strawberry pattern). The cover was worked by the second Mrs. Lear at Mount Vernon, and was given to my mother by the late Mrs. Colonel Lear (Miss Henleg). I would be very glad to have it placed in the Pennsylvania Room at Mount Vernon.

Sincerely yours,

*Frederica C. Gitchell.*

April 23d.

This bedspread was made of cotton, grown on the estate of Colonel Robert Gamble, of the Continental Army; picked, carded, woven, and embroidered by the slaves of the family. It formed part of the "household linen" of his daughter, Elizabeth Washington, who married Wm. Wirt, of Virginia; and by her given to her daughter, Catherine Grattan, who married Alexander Randall, of Maryland; from whom it came to her daughter, Fannie Nicholson, who married Henry C. McIlvaine, of Pennsylvania, who places it at Mount Vernon, in the Pennsylvania Room, as an historical relic of interest *there*, inasmuch as Robert Gamble was a personal friend and one time *aide* to General Washington and one of his near neighbors in Virginia.

Loaned by

*Fannie N. R. McIlvaine,*

Corresponding Secretary Philadelphia Chapter, D. A. R.  
May, 1900.

Respectfully submitted. *Ellen Waln Harrison,*  
Vice-Regent of Pennsylvania.

#### RHODE ISLAND STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Rhode Island would report a gift of \$50.00 from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Gaspee Chapter, which was to be an annual one; and a

mahogany secretary and an old-fashioned desk were sent for Mr. Dodge's office.

One hundred dollars given for the Artesian well, and a gift of \$50.00 from Mr. Henry G. Russell, to be applied to the improvement of the trees and grounds.

It is hoped that another year may make a better showing, as Rhode Island never slackens her interest in any work once undertaken.

Respectfully submitted.

*A. I. C. D. Ames,*

Vice-Regent for Rhode Island.

May 11, 1900.

#### TENNESSEE STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Tennessee sincerely regrets her unavoidable absence from the Council this spring.

Reports received have been distributed; one was sent to the Tennessee Historical Society.

A contribution of \$100.00 has been received from Major T. S. Webb, with the request that it be appropriated to the expenses of the new heating apparatus.

Respectfully submitted.

*Mary Yeatman Webb,*

Vice-Regent for Tennessee.

#### TEXAS STATE REPORT.

Since the last annual meeting of the Council, the Vice-Regent for Texas has been able, through the generosity of the people of her State, to improve the appearance of the entrance to Mount Vernon by erecting a Gateway and Lodges. The improvement, including architect's fee and the inscription, was made at a cost of \$1,405.00. Of this amount \$1,105.00 has been collected, leaving a balance of \$300.00, which the Vice-Regent hopes to collect during the coming year. The architect, Mr. Norris, was so successful in his plans, as well as Mr. Dodge in having them carried out, that were it not for the inscription on the Gate, "Erected

by the Masons and other Citizens of Texas," visitors to Mount Vernon would suppose that the improvement had been made during Washington's life and under his supervision. Attached to this report is a list of those who have contributed to the Gate Fund since the report of 1899.

Last summer Mrs. James L. Slayden gave a Mount Vernon Tea, which not only interested the people in this historic place, but added \$70.00 to the Gate Fund.

The following contributions have been made to the Texas Room: a pair of handsome pillow-cases, by Mrs. E. B. Raymond; an old-fashioned table, by Mrs. T. B. See; silver candlestick, snuffers, and tray, by Miss Margaret Sealy. Many persons gave balls of silk for the rag carpet which is on the floor of the Texas Room, and Mrs. Thomas Franklin, of San Antonio, kindly paid for the weaving.

The Vice-Regent distributed a number of last year's Reports, and she feels that the interest in Mount Vernon among the people of Texas is steadily increasing.

Bishop Johnson.....	\$ 1.00
Mrs. Oliver J. Woodhull.....	5.00
Mrs. Townsend J. Woodhull.....	1.00
Mrs. R. N. Culberson.....	1.00
Hon. P. J. Lewis.....	1.00
Mrs. P. J. Lewis.....	1.00
Miss Carrie Eaton Lewis.....	1.00
Major J. B. Armstrong.....	10.00
Miss Rosa Freeman.....	1.00
Mrs. Robert Dalzell.....	5.00
Mr. Joseph Faust.....	1.00
Mount Vernon Tea.....	70.00
Mrs. Britton Davis.....	5.00
Mr. W. C. Robards.....	25.00
Mr. A. Cohen.....	15.00
Mr. Nat Lewis.....	10.00
Mr. Dan Brien.....	10.00
Mr. C. Griesenback.....	10.00
Messrs. Savage Bros.....	10.00
Mr. J. Efron.....	10.00
Mr. Thomas H. Clarkson.....	10.00
Hon. Edward R. Meek.....	10.00
Mr. Harry Landa.....	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Lasater.....	10.00
Texas Society of Colonial Dames.....	50.00
Mrs Francis Smith.....	10.00



Mrs. Sam. M. Johnson.....	\$ 1.00
Mr. W. W. Lipscomb.....	10.00
Mr. Otto Koehler.....	15.00
Dr. S. T. Turner.....	2.50
Mrs. S. T. Turner.....	2.50
Ladies' Reading Club, of Orange.....	1.00
Mrs. Edward Rotan.....	5.00
Mr. Frank Cochran.....	5.00
Mr. Robert L. Ball.....	10.00
Mrs. M. E. Allan.....	5.00
Dr. G. G. Clifford.....	5.00
Hon. John M. Duncan.....	5.00
Mr. John G. Kenedy.....	10.00
Entertainment given by Mrs. Winchester Kelso and Miss Drake, of Eagle Pass.....	22.50
Hon. George F. Pendexter.....	10.00
Mrs. J. M. Durst.....	5.00
Mrs. H. L. Hilgartner.....	2.50
Jane Douglas Chapter, D. A. R., of Dallas.....	50.00
Miss Margaret Sealy.....	25.00

*Contributed by the Masons of Texas.*

Mr. S. Philipson.....	\$ 1.00
Vernon Lodge.....	1.40
Fayetteville Lodge.....	1.60
Round Rock Lodge.....	2.50
Timpson Lodge.....	3.50
Cruso Lodge.....	5.00
Las Moras Lodge.....	1.50
Rio Grande Lodge.....	7.50
Mr. W. F. Hefley.....	1.00
Mr. Edwin Chamberlin.....	1.00
San Angelo Lodge.....	5.00
Mitchell Lodge.....	5.00
El Paso Lodge.....	17.20
Seagoville Lodge.....	1.10
Ashlar Lodge.....	1.00
Onion Creek Lodge.....	1.50
Lexington Lodge.....	1.00
Forestburg Lodge.....	3.00
Lodge No. 22, Marshall.....	10.00
Greenwood Lodge.....	1.25
Paluxy Lodge.....	.50
Lone Star Lodge, Royal Arch Masons.....	15.00
Euclid Lodge.....	4.40
East Trinity Lodge.....	1.30
Bloomfield Lodge.....	1.50
Blanconia Lodge.....	1.00
White Rock Lodge.....	2.50
Kyle Lodge.....	.50
Lake Creek Lodge.....	5.00
Murchison Lodge.....	1.90

Montcalm Lodge.. . . . .	\$5.00
Stephensville Lodge.....	2.00
Grandview Lodge.....	2.10
Constantine Lodge.....	2.15
Midland Lodge.....	2.00
Bee House Lodge.....	2.75
Lodge No. 396, Pottsboro'.....	1.00
Cleburne Lodge.....	2.25
Collected by Dr. M. M. Myers.....	1.00
Mr. Thomas Longbotham.....	1.00
Mr. J. J. Stubbs.....	1.00
Mr. C. C. Stubbs.....	.50
Mr. J. C. Bounds.....	.50
Mr. A. J. Berry.....	.50
Mr. Henry Bounds.....	.25
Mr. S. R. Hamilton.....	1.00
Mr. James P. Hart.....	5.00
Dr. T. J. Burnett.....	1.00
Mr. J. E. Schnelder.....	2.00
Mr. N. W. Washer.....	5.00
Mr. W. L. Herff.....	2 50
Mr. Theodore Harris.....	2.50
Collected by the Hon. T. W. Gregory.....	7.00
Dr. S. E. Hudson.....	1.00
Mr. Charles Spalding.....	1.00
Hon. R. R. Gaines.....	5.00
Farmersville Lodge.....	1.25

Respectfully submitted.

*Frances C. Marcy,*  
Vice-Regent for Texas.

#### VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Virginia has been unable to continue her work in public schools during the past year. Through the Richmond newspapers she has asked relics of Washington for exhibition at Mount Vernon. She brings an autograph letter of General Washington to be deposited among our relics, as a loan from Fayette G. Ball.

She is greatly indebted to the Vice-Regent for Massachusetts for an interesting talk delivered before the Woman's Club of Richmond upon Mount Vernon and the work of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

*Emma R. Ball,*  
Vice-Regent for Virginia.

WISCONSIN STATE REPORT.

No report.

Adjourned at 12:30 for the day, according to the order of business adopted, to give time for the various committees to meet and consult and inspect the Grounds, the Tomb, and the Gardens.

THIRD DAY—SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1900.

*Morning Session.*

Council met at 9:30 a. m., Regent presiding.

Devotional exercises.

Roll called.

Present:

MRS. WALKER, Vice-Regent for North Carolina.  
 MRS. SWEAT, Vice-Regent for Maine.  
 MRS. HUDSON, Vice-Regent for Connecticut.  
 MRS. BALL, Vice-Regent for Virginia.  
 MRS. FLANDRAU, Vice-Regent for Minnesota.  
 MRS. MAXEY, Vice-Regent for Texas.  
 MRS. WARD, Vice-Regent for Kansas.  
 MRS. HARRISON, Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania.  
 MRS. AMES, Vice-Regent for Rhode Island.  
 MRS. BAKER, Vice-Regent for Florida.  
 MRS. WINDER, Vice-Regent for New Hampshire.  
 MISS COMEGYS, Vice-Regent for Delaware.  
 MISS TOWNSEND, Vice-Regent for New York.  
 MISS LONGFELLOW, Vice-Regent for Massachusetts.

Minutes of previous day read, corrected, and accepted.

The following letter was read, the gift accepted, and acknowledgments sent to Commander Davenport:

Navy Department, Washington, April 17, 1900.

My dear Madame,—I take great pleasure in presenting to your Association an original Mount Vernon engraving, the history of which is briefly explained by the enclosed memorandum found by me among the effects of my mother, the late Mrs. Henry K. Davenport. My mother, Jennie Brent Graham, was the youngest daughter of the Hon-

orable George Graham, of Fairfax County, Virginia, and who died many years ago. My mother during the fifties was, with my brother and myself, a frequent visitor to Mount Vernon, often spending a month at a time; Mrs. Washington, wife of the last owner, being a cousin of hers. I might also add that her father, with his brothers and sisters, were also visitors at Mount Vernon during General Washington's life, we still having in the family an invitation from General Washington for her aunt to dine there February 23, 1799.

Trusting you may find this engraving interesting, please believe me to be, my dear madames, always with respect,

Very sincerely yours, *Richard G. Davenport,*  
Commander U. S. Navy..

"This picture in its frame belonged to General Washington with the book, 'Sorrows of Werther,' 6 large engravings. Before leaving Mount Vernon, when Augustine Washington, its owner, sold it to the ladies of the Mount Vernon Association, Miss Cunningham the President, he gave me the choice of the series. If I die, I would like the original frame, which is broken, to be repaired and a velvet frame made to fit it, and given to the Regents, to be hung forever at Mount Vernon. I am certain Dick and Serena will carry out my intention. If they prefer to keep it during their lives, they can do so, but eventually to be given as I direct.

*Jennie G. Davenport.*

"March 8, 1895."

The Regent called for the Superintendent's Report.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

*To the Regent and Vice-Regents of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association:*

Ladies,—For the fiscal year ending April 30, 1900, I have the honor to report a decided increase in the number of visitors, the accomplishment of the several important projects ordered by last Council, and—what I hope you will find—a general betterment in the condition of the property.

The record shows there were 84,233 visitors to Mount Vernon during the year.

This was exceeded only once—viz., in 1892, when the Grand Army Encampment at Washington brought us 87,126.

The Peace Jubilee, celebrated in Washington last May, was counted upon to greatly increase the number of visitors. Less than 4,000 came that week.

The great event which awaked afresh the memory of

—3M

Washington—the centennial of his death, December 14th—brought to Mount Vernon many pilgrims to participate in the service prepared by the Masons.

From the great interest voiced throughout the land, it was naturally expected that great crowds would come. Our record shows the number of visitors that day as 3,485. The weather was faultless, and the programme for the memorial service was very impressive.

Subsequent letters from the Grand Master of Masons, and others prominent in the affair, expressed appreciation of our efforts to further the success of the ceremonies.

There has been apparent a corresponding increase of appreciation of all that has been done by your Association to restore and protect Washington's Home.

#### *Heating Apparatus.*

The ever-present anxiety for the safety of the buildings, especially against accident by fire, resulted in the rejection of all the local stoves and furnaces, and the installation of the hot water system planned by Prof. Woodbridge, of Boston.

The plans and specifications were approved by the last Council, and a contract entered into with Messrs. Lynch & Woodward, of Boston, for the construction of the apparatus.

Located 400 feet away from the Mansion, a subterranean boiler-room, properly equipped and drained, was built, and from it the pipe mains were extended underground through terra-cotta conduits to the Mansion, Office, Kitchen, Butler's House, Watch-room, Lavatory, Spinning-house, three Conservatories, and the two Quarters.

For the Mansion *indirect* radiation was used, the heat being carried from the cellar through grills in the hearths of the rooms above, and under the stairs of the Central Hall. The other buildings were heated from *direct* radiators placed in the several rooms.

For the Conservatories the triple pipe system, heretofore found satisfactory, was utilized. Each building is separately valved, and can be cut off from circuit as desired.

The work was begun in June and completed in October. From time to time Prof. Woodbridge made visits of inspection, and Mr. Bernard Green, the advisory expert, examined carefully the materials used, the construction and operation of the plant.

The verdict was that the contractors had faithfully performed their duty as set forth in the specifications, and that the system was successful in operation.

The Mansion is particularly changed as to its comfort for visitors.

The ease with which the heat can be regulated, the saving of labor, the absence of ash dust, but, above all, the absolute safety of this system, stamps its success.

When this method of heating was devised, one of the benefits especially sought was the drying of the damp cellar of the Mansion—a condition which had long jeopardized the strength not only of the foundation, but the superstructure also. The effect has exceeded our expectation.

Considerable shrinkage of woodwork resulted, but it was controlled by simple evaporators connected with the mains in the basement.

As to the consumption of coal, I find we have used close to 115 tons. This is somewhat in excess of the estimated requirement. Until the fireman became familiar with his duty, more coal was burned than later, when by experiment it was learned how to economize fuel.

The total cost of this heating apparatus—including plans and specifications—was \$8,197.91.

#### *Artesian Well.*

The attempt to secure a plentiful supply of good drinking-water by drilling an Artesian well met with success. The location chosen was in the Deer Park, about 10 feet

above the river level, and near our steam pump. An 8-inch pipe was driven through clay and sandstone to a depth of 328 feet, where a 12-foot stratum of water-bearing sand was found. The water rose to within 8 feet of the surface, and yielded, by pump, 35 gallons per minute. Upon chemical analysis, the quality was pronounced pure—except for a slight trace of ammonia. By comparing this analysis with that of water accepted by the Government as pure, I am satisfied that what we have meets all the requirements as to potability. The accompanying letter from the Chief Chemist of the Department of Agriculture confirms this.

It was hoped—and somewhat expected—that a so-called “flowing well” could be secured by going deeper, but, though the drilling was continued to bed-rock (a depth of 570 feet), no other water-bearing stratum was found.

To afford a proper reservoir for the Artesian water, the large cistern near the Mansion was used. This was thoroughly cleaned, relined, and strengthened. As an additional precaution, a filtering-wall of porous brick was constructed within the cistern. The water pumped into one section filters through the cross-wall into another part, whence it is drawn as needed, by small hand pumps.

#### *Sea-Wall.*

The resumption of work upon the Sea-wall last year was made possible by the donation of the Vice-Regent for California.

It was so essential for the safety of the steepest section of the river bank south of the Deer Park, I decided to construct as great a length of *wall* as possible and leave the coping for future consideration. The result was that we accomplished 700 feet of concrete foundation and 570 feet of masonry wall.

Just about the same length of wall will be required to reach the proposed limit—that is, the upper end of the Deer Park, where it was originally intended to stop.

This stretch has been authorized under the repeated donation from California, and the work is now under way.

#### *Entrance Gate.*

The Vice-Regent for Texas was authorized to arrange for the construction of a suitable Gateway and Lodges, where visitors who come by rail enter the grounds.

The plans which the Council approved were strictly followed, and a feature of useful and appropriate design is the result.

Some changes to the approach near this Gateway will materially improve the effect. This will follow in due course of time.

#### *Deer Park.*

The enlargement of the Deer Park, as proposed at the last Council, contemplated two additions; one, the hillside toward the Wharf; the other, toward the Gould lot. The extension west (toward the Wharf) was effected, but the eastern addition was postponed because of more pressing work then in hand. This I should like to take up the present season.

#### *Mansion Repairs.*

Much work in the Mansion was found necessary during the year. Repapering the walls above the main and back stairways (with designs approved by the Council) greatly improved the former worn and soiled appearance there. The pattern-blocks for the paper made by Nevius & Haviland are in our possession. After papering the walls, the wood trimmings were painted.

The Lafayette Room ceiling and walls were repaired and calcimined, the woodwork was painted, and the floor stained.

The iron railing of the Music Room giving access to the cabinet of relics was taken away, the cabinet position



changed, and an iron grating similar to those of other rooms fitted to the doorway. The floor was stained and the wall paint renewed.

The iron railing removed from the Music Room furnished suitable gateways for that room, Washington's Bedroom, Spinning-room, etc., without cost.

Following the installation of the new heating apparatus, repairs were required to the paving and brickwork in the cellar and the hearths of fireplaces through which the heat is conducted to the rooms above. The floors were patched where the hot-air registers had been. The old furnace was removed and disposed of. It was worn out and classed as junk.

The direction of the water-ducts from roof was changed, and a portion of the tin roof of the Portico renewed. The floors of rooms and hallways have been oiled as needed, and painting done to the interior of the cupola and elsewhere in the attic.

To prevent the rapidly increasing wear of stairs and passage-ways, some covering, such as rubber, should be devised.

#### *Miscellaneous Repairs.*

Considerable work of miscellaneous character has been accomplished. I converted the Kennel near the Watch-room into a receptacle for all our fire hose and movable apparatus, making it more readily accessible than when stored in the vault with the engines.

The Conservatories were repaired, painted, and the glazing overhauled. New stages were built in two of the Greenhouses.

A much-needed book-press was built in the Office, the mantel and fireplace repaired, and some very acceptable additions made to the furniture by the Vice-Regents for Rhode Island and Georgia.

The room adjoining the Office (State Kitchen) was

newly plastered and calcimined, and the woodwork painted. The Watch-room received like treatment.

Galvanized iron protecting-caps were placed over many of the chimneys to lessen draught, shed the rain, and keep out the chimney-swallows, which give trouble during the summer.

A new turnstile was required at the entrance gate. The old one, from long use, was much worn and its mechanism irregular. This was repaired and placed in position, where it will be used when the presence of large crowds necessitate opening both entrances.

Repairs to the eave-gutters on the Barn and Wharf Pavilion were necessary.

The rustic bridge near the Tomb was rebuilt; also a foot-bridge at the Coachman's Cabin.

In addition to the foregoing, our regular force has been busied in many useful ways. They have painted the House-keeper's Cottage, the eave-gutters and roofs of several buildings, repaired the corn-crib, the board walks, gates, and fences. They have removed and replaced the fly netting on doors and windows, repaired the pumps, cleaned the chemical engines, whitewashed walls, fences, and buildings, calcimined several rooms, trimmed trees, built hotbed frames, glazed and painted the sash, and constructed temporary shelters on the river shore to house cement and tools used on the Sea-wall.

Much work incidental to the special improvements occupied a great deal of our men's time, such as arranging in advance for the pipe lines to the several buildings, preparing a coal-bin, hauling away and grading the surplus earth after trenches were filled, sodding where needed, removing *débris*, hauling material, etc.

#### *Grounds.*

The attention to the Grounds was given its regular order. Roads, walks, and drains were repaired, the lawns

were mowed and raked; the grass-plot surrounding the sundial in the fore court was so hopelessly filled with wire-grass, I trenched and reseeded it this spring. Many of the trees disfigured by storms were removed or trimmed, but a greater number yet require treatment. All through our woods remain evidences of the hurricane of 1896 and subsequent gales. Each winter I have had men there converting the fallen timber into lumber or fuel. This year I took in hand a section where windfalls were heaviest, and succeeded in removing most of the timber and uprooting the stumps. To complete the clearing of this tract another season's work will be directed. When accomplished, an addition of about six acres will be joined to what we call the back field. From this "new ground" pine wood has been cut and piled—about 40 cords—ready for shipment.

I planted evergreens to screen the out-buildings; also a few ornamental trees, such as purple beech, Japanese red maple, oaks, etc. In the old Kitchen Garden I planted potatoes, onions, and other vegetables; also set out some fruit-trees to be trained against the wall. These, in variety, were as follows: quince, apricot, plum, and pear. I also set out 100 raspberries and a number of flowering peach-trees.

One of the tributes brought by the Masons on December 14th was a cedar of Lebanon. This was planted by the Regent and Vice-Regents present on the following morning, near the Tomb.

There is much that *must* be done to make the Grounds what they should be; that is, to properly trim trees, removing those which crowd more desirable specimens, to set out others, to improve the deplorable condition of the lawns—ridding them, if possible, of the pest grasses and weeds now abundant. It is a subject over which I have been greatly concerned, but lack the skill to correct. It is worthy of careful study by an expert in landscape gardening, and I hope your consideration of it will develop a plan to make the surroundings of Washington's Home and Tomb more

attractive and in keeping with what we can well believe he would have enjoyed.

### *Farm.*

With all else to engage time and labor, the Farm received its share of attention.

The season was favorable enough and the crops yielded well, showing some improvement had been gained for the land. The treatment advised a year ago by the expert from the United States Department of Agriculture was followed as to rotation of crops.

Two lots in rye for spring pasture were plowed under and sown with cow peas. Part of this crop was turned under green and followed by crimson clover. The other lot was plowed this spring, after being top-dressed with manure, and seeded to oats and clover.

Last season's hay and fodder crop was sufficient long feed for our stock the past winter. We made about 70 barrels of corn for the horses and deer. Mill feed has been purchased for the cows as usual.

This year we shall have 12 acres in corn (second crop), 9 acres in oats and clover, 3 acres in crimson clover, 9 acres for mowing (second season), 27 acres in pasture.

My plan to purchase a cargo of oyster shells and burn it for lime to apply to the Farm was not carried out because of pressure of other work.

The Guernsey stock has proven satisfactory. We have now 4 cows, 4 heifers, and 1 bull. Have sold 1 cow and 4 male calves. The sale of milk and butter yielded \$622.21.

Two farm-horses being incapacitated by age and infirmities, it was found necessary to purchase a pair of young draft-horses to take their place. At present, therefore, we have 6 horses. One, if not both, of the old horses may be sold.

For all the hauling, grading, plowing, and coach-work in view, these teams will be kept busy.

There are now twenty deer in the Park. Four of last summer's fawns died; one by an accident, the others from causes unknown. Enlarging the Park gave an opportunity to benefit the deer by affording them abundant fresh browsing.

Some tentative applications for deer were received. I have an order to ship two young deer as soon as they can be safely caught.

### *Boat Trips.*

In January the river was closed by ice so that stoppage of the boat trips was unavoidable. Advantage was taken of this circumstance to overhaul and repair the steamboat. On February 22d the regular winter schedule of the boat was resumed.

The railway service was uninterrupted during the year.

When the boat was laid up, passes were issued by the Railroad Company to the Mount Vernon employees.

### *Ice.*

The cold snap early in January gave us a chance to fill the Ice-house; cutting our supply from the creek two miles distant, where the condition of the water is good.

### *Post-Cards.*

Council authorized the publishing of colored post-cards bearing a view of the Mansion and the Washington coat of arms. Many reliable firms in that line of business were consulted, but the result has not been satisfactory as yet—judging from the sample cards which I now submit for your inspection.

### *Photographs.*

The sale of photographs of Mount Vernon somewhat decreased when the new Guide-book was issued, the book-

let containing reproductions of all the most attractive views of the place. With the Regent's consent, I therefore reduced the price of the small colored views from 30 cents to 25 cents each. This leaves us a net profit of 12½ cents each.

The fad for amateur photography increases the daily applications for permission to take pictures here—not only exterior, but interior views. To discriminate between amateurs (whose innocent pastime does not affect our sales) and professionals (whose object is to compete with the Mount Vernon trade) gives me no end of trouble.

The constant demand for privileges to make special negatives for lecture slides and to illustrate books or papers is a matter I must beg the Council to consider and definitely solve. I have had so often to refer these appeals to the Regent, I desire to relieve her of further annoyance on that line; therefore I ask that a fixed rule be now established.

#### *Donations.*

I have to report the receipt of several donations, as follows:

From Mr. S. P. Avery, of New York, 4 books: "Washington Letters, 2 volumes; "The Memory of Washington," "The Tomb of Washington."

From Mr. John E. Farnham, of Boston, a Washington chair.

From Mrs. Jos. R. Lamar, of Georgia, 6 banana shrubs.

From Mr. Wm. R. Smith, Superintendent of National Botanical Gardens, 3 books for the library, a cedar of Lebanon, agaves, and other plants.

From Mr. Wm. O. McDowell, of Newark, N. J., "Ethan Allen; A Drama of the Revolution."

From Col. Hilary A. Herbert, "The First American."

From Commander R. G. Davenport, U. S. N., engraving which hung at Mount Vernon.

From Miss Sarah McFadden, of Peekskill, N. Y., her annual gift of two flags.

From Mr. H. Folger, of San Francisco, \$1.00.

### *Tomb.*

There have been no alterations or repairs necessary at the Tomb. The four marble shafts were cleaned. Decorating the Tomb had attention on the four regular occasions—viz., May 30th (when the President sent a handsome wreath), July 4th, December 14th, and February 22d. The floral tributes upon the Centennial of Washington's death were especially noteworthy. Every commandery or chapter of Masons brought floral emblems of some kind to place in the vault. Two came from England. The Earl of Londesborough, who sent a magnificent wreath of oak and laurel, has since passed to his rest.

I must refer here to the death of Mrs. Pickens, whose status as a Mason made her look forward to that Centennial service with more than ordinary interest. Her summons came on August 8th, and the flag was flown at half-mast until after her funeral.

There were no changes in the list of regular employees during the year.

The Guards were supplied with new uniforms; also storm-coats and boots.

I take great pleasure in commending all the employees for their attention to duty.

It is with sincere gratitude that I express my appreciation of the patient kindness of the Regent, and indeed of all the ladies, who, in the midst of their private and social cares, always find time to answer my vexing correspondence and counsel me with advice and directions.

Trusting that my efforts may merit your continued confidence, I now present to you my Financial Statement for the fiscal year.

*Harrison H. Dodge,*

Resident Secretary and Superintendent.

## EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 1900.

Council expenses for 1899.....	\$ 460.16
Gratuity to servants.....	50.00
Regular pay-roll.....	10,980.00
Day laborers.....	742.93
Pension to Richard Broadus.....	312.00
Hot water system.....	8,177.91
Artesian well.....	2,423.41
Sea-wall extension.....	2,626.28
Deer Park extension.....	107.94
Improvement to grounds.....	108.71
Repairs to Mansion.....	186.10
Repairs to Office and Watch-room.....	39.40
Repairs to cistern.....	56.00
Repairs to typewriter.....	11.25
Repairs to Greenhouse.....	143.25
Stock Plants for Greenhouse.....	94.44
Painting Wharf-house and fences.....	101.00
Miscellaneous repairs.....	309.53
Household expenses.....	78.01
Incidental expenses.....	89.91
Farm implements, seed, etc.....	160.18
Two horses.....	250.00
Mill feed for stock.....	265.01
Ice.....	73.00
Coal.....	610.89
Telephone rental.....	175.00
Registering turnstile.....	40.00
Uniforms for Guards.....	187.50
Guide-books.....	750.00
Mount Vernon views.....	906.66
Centennial of Washington's death (extra Guards, etc.).....	103.75
Total.....	<u>\$30,620.22</u>

## REVENUE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 1900.

Mount Vernon views.....	\$1,514.80
Flowers.....	625.40
Milk.....	541.46
Butter.....	80.75
Guide-books.....	1,046.75
Coach fares.....	136.23
Canes.....	29.00
Mount Vernon literature.....	30.20
Lamp oil.....	7.45
Old material.....	74.90
Lumber.....	86.58
Calves.....	30.99
Cow and calf.....	50.00
Wood.....	31.65
Cash donation.....	1.00



Donation from Vice-Regent for California.....	\$2,500.00	
Donation from Mrs. Hubbard, through the Vice-Regent for Connecticut.....	150.00	
Donation from Vice-Regent for Illinois.....	100.00	
Donation from Vice-Regents for New Jersey and Rhode Island.....	50.00	
Wharf entrances.....	22.00	
Boat privilege.....	99.96	\$7,209.12
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Visitors by Boat.....	28,282 at 25 cents	7,070.50
Visitors by Railway.....	55,863 at 25 cents	13,965.75
		<hr/>
Total.....		\$28,245.37

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

### *Division of Chemistry.*

Washington, D. C.

H. W. Wiley, Chief.

E. E. Ewell, First Assistant.

W. D. Bigelow, Second Assistant.

April 18, 1900.

*Hon. Harrison E. Dodge, Superintendent of Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon, Va.:*

Dear Mr. Dodge,—I have looked very carefully over the analytical data contained in your letter of the 17th inst., and can say from an inspection of them that the Artesian well water referred to is entirely potable. The entire absence of nitrites and nitrates is somewhat surprising, considering that ammonia is present in the water. The absence of these bodies, however, shows that the water has been entirely free from nitrifying organisms, and, in fact, is probably free from organisms of all kinds. The freedom of the water from hardness is also to be noted. In fact, from the data which you submit, I should say that this water was an excellent drinking-water.

I have no objection to your showing this opinion to any of your friends who are interested in the matter, but could not consent to have it published in any way as an advertisement.

Sincerely yours,

H. W. Wiley, Chemist.

### ANALYSIS OF WATER FROM THE ARTESIAN WELL DRILLED AT MOUNT VERNON, 1899.

Chlorides, 105 parts in 100,000 parts of water.

Nitrates, absent.

Nitrites, absent.

Ammonia, 0.0175 parts in 100,000 parts of water.

Hardness (lime and magnesia salts), a trace.

Organic substances, 100,000 parts of water reduce 0.54 parts potassium permanganate.

## INVENTORY OF MOVABLE PROPERTY.

Coach and 2 sets of harness (1 old).	4 long-handled shovels.
Dayton wagon and harness.	7 short-handled shovels.
Horse cart and harness.	3 mattocks.
Hay-frame.	11 picks.
Two-horse mower.	1 garden fork.
One-horse mower.	4 wooden rakes.
2 hand mowers.	4 hoes.
Horse rake.	4 snow-shovels.
5 head-halters.	Briar-scythe.
2 two-horse plows.	3 grass-scythes and snaths.
Road scraper.	Forge and anvil.
Road scoop.	2 grain cradles.
2 wooden harrows.	2 sand screens.
Spring-tooth harrow.	5 axes.
3 stone rollers.	6 wheelbarrows.
Cutting-box.	1 tile-spade.
Corn-sheller.	4 spades.
Corn-seeder.	2 crowbars.
Grass-seeder.	1 sod-cutter.
3 short-handled forks.	3 ice-hooks.
2 long-handled forks.	Iron rammer.
5 hay-forks.	Wooden rammer.
2 wagon-jacks.	4 corn-knives.
Grindstone.	3 cross-cut saws.
Sledge-hammer.	3 iron wedges.
4 iron rakes.	2 doubletrees.
3 stone rollers.	2 horse-buckets.
Farm wagon and harness.	Half-bushel measure.
1 set of plow harness.	Carpenters' tools.
3 double shovels.	9 portable fire-extinguishers.
1 cultivator.	Appliances for chemical engines.

Mount Vernon, Virginia, April 30, 1900.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT.

From the manuscript and typewritten copy furnished me, I had printed 90 copies of Minutes of Council, of 78 pages each. Also 1,000 copies of Annual Report, of 52 pages.

One copy of Minutes and 12 copies of Reports were sent to the Regent and to each Vice-Regent. One copy of Report was sent to the Kansas State Historical Society and 28 copies to private individuals. To the Superintendent was sent all the rest of the edition.

A considerable amount of stationery was received from the Superintendent.

#### CASH ACCOUNT.

##### *Receipts.*

July 29, Cheque from Regent, for Balance reported by Secretary,  
May, 1899..... \$28.63

##### *Expenses.*

Expressage on pamphlets.....	\$13.28
Printing summons to Council.....	.50
Postage and envelopes.....	4.00
Additional postage.....	1.00
Cash on hand.....	9.85
	<hr/>
	\$28.63

*Jennie Meeker Ward,*  
Secretary of Council.

May 1, 1900.

Council adjourned at 12:30.

#### *Afternoon Session.*

Council met at 1:45 o'clock.

One hundred copies of the form of acknowledgment of gifts were ordered to be procured, with engraved plate for future use. This order was entrusted to Mrs. Sweat, Vice-Regent for Maine, to be sent to the Regent.

A special committee was appointed to prepare data for an article for encyclopedia, on the history of the Mount Vernon Association: Mrs. Sweat, Chairman; Miss Longfellow, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Winder, Mrs. Hill.

Moved by Mrs. Ames, Vice-Regent for Rhode Island, that the action on the letter to applicants, page 63, Minutes

of 1899, be rescinded and the matter be left as heretofore, to the Regent. Seconded by Mrs. Sweat, and carried.

Manuscript Minutes of 1899 handed by Secretary to the Regent to be filed in Superintendent's office.

Mrs. Harrison, Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania, brought before the Council some interesting photographs (one found in Alexandria, showing a ha-ha fence on the South Lawn; others taken fifteen years ago, showing the remains of the brick wall at that time), and asked that the matter of the restoration of this fence be now considered. After discussion, the following resolution was offered:

Moved by Vice-Regent for Maine, seconded by Vice-Regent for Rhode Island, that the suggestion of Mrs. Harrison, in regard to the restoration of the ha-ha fences which existed in Washington's time has received the favorable attention of the Council, and it is hoped that measures may be taken to carry out such plans. Carried.

Council adjourned at 5 p. m.

#### FOURTH DAY—MONDAY, MAY 14, 1900.

##### *Morning Session.*

Opening exercises.

Roll called.

Present:

MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND, Regent.

MRS. WALKER, Vice-Regent for North Carolina.

MRS. SWEAT, Vice-Regent for Maine.

MRS. HUDSON, Vice-Regent for Connecticut.

MISS COMEGYS, Vice-Regent for Delaware.

MISS LONGFELLOW, Vice-Regent for Massachusetts.

MRS. WARD, Vice-Regent for Kansas.

MRS. BALL, Vice-Regent for Virginia.

MRS. WINDER, Vice-Regent for New Hampshire.

MRS. FLANDRAU, Vice-Regent for Minnesota.

MRS. HARRISON, Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania.

MRS. MAXEY, Vice-Regent for Texas.

MRS. AMES, Vice-Regent for Rhode Island.

MRS. BAKER, Vice-Regent for Florida.

MISS TOWNSEND, Vice-Regent for New York.

Mrs. Campbell, Vice-Regent for Ohio, arrived by boat.

Minutes of Saturday read and approved.

Regent called for Reports of Committees.

#### MANSION REPORT.

The Mansion is in such excellent condition that the committee has but few suggestions to make.

We would recommend that some method be devised to protect the stairways from the wear and tear of constant use. Also, that the stone steps of the Mansion be repaired.

The Superintendent reports the necessity of a few incidental repairs in the woodwork and plastering of some of the buildings.

*Rebecca B. Flandrau,*

*Acting Chairman.*

*Ellen Waln Harrison.*

*A. I. C. D. Ames.*

#### REPORT OF FURNITURE OF MANSION COMMITTEE.

Your committee have gone faithfully through every room in the Mansion, as well as the rooms in the Quarters, with the following result. They would suggest the following:

The fire-buckets, now in a cabinet, on the second-floor Hall, to be hung on a beam in the same Hall, fully secured to prevent their removal.

The curtains to be washed in both Parlor and Music Room; also two modern rugs to be removed, also the death-mask of General Washington; that the beautiful mirror and brackets now in the Virginia Room be hung in Music Room.

That a new tablet be put upon the small painting in the Banquet Hall, representing the old Washington Home in England.

Remove to Library several of the pictures now standing in the Parlor and very inappropriate for that room.

They would suggest that several of the Bedrooms have white dimity covers for bureaus and chair seats, as well as curtains for the bedsteads. That proper brass candlesticks be placed upon the mantelpieces and bureaus in place of the various-colored china and bronze ones now there. That a new rug, three chairs, and proper table be placed in the Superintendent's Room, the work commenced there last year being but half completed.

That new iron bedsteads and mattresses are needed for the Guards' rooms.

The Chairman would respectfully ask for an appropriation of \$125.00 for the purpose of buying the necessary furniture for the Superintendent's Room.

Respectfully submitted.      *A. I. C. D. Ames,*  
Chairman.

*Ellen Waln Harrison.*

*Amy Townsend.*

12th May, 1900.

#### GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE.

In the absence of the Chairman of our committee, we submit the Gardener's Report to the Council, with recommendations that the new tubs for palms be allowed; we would suggest that the lot near the Spinning-house be planted with roses (old-fashioned ones) and grass; that vines be planted against the wall, and more tulips and old-fashioned flowers in the garden.

*Amy Townsend,*  
Acting Chairman.

*Frances C. Maxey.*

*Harriet C. Comegys.*

## GARDENER'S REPORT.

I wish to again call attention to the courtesy shown by Mr. Samuel Daw, 32d Street, Washington, D. C., in disposing of the products of our Greenhouses. He has turned over \$61.25, the result of sales at his store, for which he will accept no remuneration.

Also, I wish to make acknowledgments to S. D. Blackstone, 14th and 8th Streets; Gude Bros., F Street, near 13th; and John H. Small's Sons, 14th and G Streets, Washington, D. C., whose generous responses to my appeal enabled me to have the Tomb in fine condition for the Centennial celebration of December 14th. The Spanish pines in front of the Greenhouses succumbed to the winter of 1898 and 1899, and a few months ago were removed. The boxwood suffered materially, but we hope time will bring that out all right.

The total receipts for the fiscal year were.....	\$638.95
Expenditures..... ..	13.55

Cash to Superintendent.....	\$625.40
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I would respectfully ask for an appropriation of \$200.00 for staging, procuring new tubs for palms, etc., and \$150.00 for stock.

Salary of F. H. Whelan.....	\$1,140.00
Salary of Wm. Schubert.....	480.00
Salary of Wm. Harrison.....	360.00
Expenditures by Gardener, for postage, etc.....	13.55

	\$1,993.55
Receipts..... ..	638.95

	\$1,354.60
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Total receipts..... ..	\$638.95
Expenditures..... ..	13.55

Cash to Superintendent.....	\$625.40
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Respectfully submitted. *Franklin A. Whelan,*  
Head Gardener.

Mount Vernon, Va., May 10, 1900.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS, TREES, AND SHRUBS.**

In the absence of the Chairman, your committee submit the following report as the result of our investigation of the grounds at Mount Vernon.

We recommend that a privet hedge be planted on the line of the wire fence from the Barn to the path leading to the Tomb, also a privet hedge on both sides of the road leading to the Entrance Gate; that the spaces at the Tomb now worn bare should be neatly cut into a walk and covered with brick.

It was moved by the Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania, seconded by Mrs. Sweat, and carried, that no new appliances be used on the gutters of the carriage road, and that everything be done to keep the old-fashioned appearance; also that the edges of the ground about the monuments shall be well sodded up to a few inches within the enclosures.

We also recommend that the path leading from the Summer-house to the old Tomb be made more sightly; also, that the path on the slope of the hill near and behind the Summer-house be filled in, when convenient, and gradually restored to its normal condition before it was worn away by the tread of visitors; also that the walks around the Summer-house be cut neatly and filled in with gravel; that a guard-rail be placed at narrow points in the carriage-way to the Wharf; that the stone steps near the Deer-house leading to the ha-ha fence be repaired.

We would suggest that the cedars now shutting out the view of the pasture land on the Gould tract should be thinned out and left in clusters.

The grounds are in excellent condition as to roads, drainage, trees, and shrubbery, needing only a continuance of the care and taste hitherto given to ensure their perpetual beauty and preservation.

We suggest that the Superintendent remove the picket fence separating the old enclosure from the new addition,



and replace it with a wire fence similar to that protecting the new Park.

Four small cedar bushes that were interfering with other trees and were half dead were ordered cut out, which was done. Flagging to Entrance Gate to be put in order.

*Susan E. Johnson Hudson,*  
Acting Chairman.

*Fanny Gilchrist Baker.*

*Amy Townsend.*

Moved by Maine, seconded by Pennsylvania, that the Committee on Grounds, Trees, and Shrubs be authorized to consult with experts in regard to treatment of certain "sick trees" at Mount Vernon, and to report his advice to the Regent before action. Carried.

#### REPORT OF FARM COMMITTEE.

As Chairman of the Farm Committee, I have the pleasure to report that the usual routine work has resulted favorably.

At my invitation, Prof. Milton Whitney, Chief of the Division of Soils of the Department of Agriculture, visited the Estate and advised the experimental treatment of certain lots, which was followed as to rotation of crops, plowing under cow peas, and seeding to clover. The beneficial effect will be more apparent next year than this.

During the past winter the hay and corn crops were sufficient for the stock.

The pair of horses used mainly for farm-work are aged, and it has been found necessary to purchase others to supply their places.

The Guernsey stock has proved satisfactory, and the most desirable of the increase is being raised.

The Deer Park has been extended, enclosing the hillside between the Summer-house and the Wharf, and it is

desirable that the broken hillside northeast of the Park be utilized also for the deer.

The committee recommends that the woodland of the estate be cleared of fallen timber, and that the boundary fences be strengthened.

Respectfully submitted.

*Phoebe A. Hearst.*

#### REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The Library Committee reports the following additions to the Library:

1. Johnson's Dictionary, 2 volumes, 1818.
2. "An Apology for Christian Divinity; A Vindication of the Doctrine of People Called Quakers," 1 volume, 1805. Presented by Mr. Wm. R. Smith.
3. Official Letters of George Washington, 2 volumes, 1795.
4. "The Memory of Washington."
5. "The Tomb of Washington," 1840. Presented by Mr. S. P. Avery.
6. "The First American," by Leila Herbert. Presented by Col. Hilary Herbert.
7. "Ethan Allen; A Drama of the Revolution." Presented by Wm. O. McDowell, Newark, N. J.
8. Official Letters of George Washington, 1 volume. Presented by Mrs. Baker, Florida.

Four old lithographs of Mount Vernon. Presented by Mr. S. P. Avery.

A copy of the *Ulster County Gazette*, January, 1800, with an account of Washington's death. Presented by Mrs. J. Henry Smith.

The Chairman of the Library Committee has received from the Record Committee the following pamphlets:

North Carolina Records.

An Historical Sketch of Old Christ Church, Alexandria, Va.

Washington Wills.

The Baker Collection of Washington Books.

Washington and Tilghman Correspondence.

Ancestry of Washington.

Proceedings in the House of Representatives on the Presentation Sword of Washington.

Final Settlement of the Estates of General George Washington.

Lawrence Lewis—Lorenzo Lewis.

*Alice M. Longfellow,*

Chairman.

*Margaret J. M. Sweat.*

#### RECORD COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

An important addition to our earliest records we find in the letters of Mrs. Greenough, of Massachusetts, and Mrs. Ritchie, of Virginia, which were presented to your committee last year by Mrs. Goldsborough.

The letters to Mrs. Comegys which we have filed date from October, 1858, when she was appointed Vice-Regent for Delaware, to 1886. They give a record of her State work in organizing and collecting money for the purchase of Mount Vernon, and prove what an important officer she was to the Association during the Civil War, in aiding those in charge of the estate by her advice and encouragement, and as Chairman of the committee appointed in February, 1864, to look after Mount Vernon affairs when the funds of the Association were extremely low—directing the management in connection with the other members of the Committee and the Treasurer, Mr. Riggs, until the return of the Regent in 1866.

Two books were filed with the letters preserved by Mrs. Halsted, Vice-Regent for New Jersey. These contain letters from Miss Phoebe Ogden, of Elizabeth, N. J., first Vice-Regent, and accounts of her collections for the purchase; and those of Mrs. Halsted from 1868 to 1891, concerning

an interesting period in the history of the Association, when the restorations were made and the organization perfected.

In another book are filed letters from Miss Harper as early as 1858, when the Vice-Regency for Maryland was offered her by Miss Cunningham, and declined on account of ill health and pressing business affairs which consumed her time. There are letters from Mrs. Chace, of Rhode Island, to Miss Tracy, some of interest from Miss Sprigg, of Maryland, 1859, an octogenarian who had known Washington; she declines the Vice-Regency from Maryland. The mention of Rev. Dr. Timothy Dwight's poem dedicated to General Washington, "Conquest of Canaan," is made in a letter to the Rev. William W. Spear, rector of a church in Cumberland, Maryland, "on the very spot where Colonel Washington encamped, and where he often read prayers before his regiment."

Through all these records of the past the deep interest and enthusiasm in the work for Mount Vernon illumines every line of the fading ink. The reader of these old letters will understand how the gigantic work came to be accomplished as it was, against all discouragement, and why the successors of these early workers are still laboring with the same energy and enthusiasm which such pioneers inaugurated. The impetus given in 1854 is still strong in its influence upon 1900.

*Harriet Clayton Comegys,*

Chairman.

*Susan E. Johnson Hudson.*

*Jennie Meeker Ward.*

#### INDEX COMMITTEE.

The Index Committee has in hand the compiling of the record of work done in each State—viz., collections for purchase, furnishings for restorations, gifts, donations of any kind, or of loans of relics to the Association; also the indexing of dates of charters and constitution and by-laws.

As a full account of the work undertaken by this committee was given in the report for 1897 by Mrs. Ward, at that time Chairman, it will not be necessary to enlarge further here.

*Rebecca B. Flandrau,*  
Chairman.

#### REPORT OF THE PRESS COMMITTEE.

The Press Committee has done all in its power, both during the interval of Councils and during annual session, to keep the public informed concerning the management of Mount Vernon, its history, and the history of the organization of the Association which purchased and owns the estate. An article was published in the *Washington Post* at the time of the Centennial of the death of Washington, and in the Richmond papers, and in February in the *Detroit Free Press*. Articles were sent describing the Centennial celebration, also, to the New York papers, but their own reporters had already furnished all that they were willing to publish; unfortunately, the magazines and leading newspapers have their own corps of writers, and they prefer to employ them to write up any special subject, even though their knowledge may be inaccurate and superficial. This fact makes it difficult for the Association to secure a hearing from the public.

It would be a mistake, however, for the Association to abandon all effort to inform the public, through the press, of all facts of interest pertaining to Mount Vernon, and we can only exhort each other to continued effort and unfailing patience.

*Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone.*

*Emma R. Ball.*

*A. R. Winder.*

#### REPORT OF RELIC COMMITTEE.

Your committee have examined the contents of the six relic cases, and find all relics in place and in good order. We have also identified all relics in the Mansion.

We acknowledge the receipt of the following relics:

A pair of very handsome banqueting candlesticks presented by the Vice-Regent for Maryland as a bequest from the late George R. Goldsborough.

Three relics presented by the Vice-Regent for Massachusetts and her sisters: a silver medal commemorating the death of George Washington, a medal commemorating the trial of Major André, a small cross made from the wood of Washington's coffin.

From Commander R. G. Davenport, U. S. N., an engraving which hung at Mount Vernon.

Two silver candlesticks purchased by the Council, once belonging to Washington at Mount Vernon.

An autograph letter from General Washington to Colonel Ball, deposited as a loan by Fayette G. Ball.

From the Vice-Regent for Louisiana a handsomely bound Record Book for Relics, with a full list of relics in possession of the Association carefully entered up to date.

Permission has been given by the Vice-Regent for Virginia for the removal of the mirror and gilded brackets from the Bedroom of General Washington, to be placed in the Music Room, where they originally hung.

*Emma R. Ball,*

Chairman.

*A. R. Winder.*

*Fanny Gilchrist Baker.*

#### REPORT OF GUIDE-BOOK COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Guide-book reports that a few important changes have been made in the Guide-book for the next edition.

*Alice M. Longfellow,*

Acting Chairman.

## REPORT OF TOMB COMMITTEE.

Your committee finds both Tombs in good condition; no outlay for repairs necessary. The decorations of the Tomb on the 14th of December, 1899, by the Masons, were most elaborate, to commemorate the Centennial of General Washington's death. Contributions of magnificent English wreaths were sent; these, mingled with American wreaths of holly and laurel, testify to the unity of feeling in their admiration of our great American. The Earl of Londesborough, Senior Warden of England, sent the following paper and verses with a wreath of oak and ivy:

*To be Placed on Washington's Tomb, on the Occasion of the Hundredth Anniversary of His Death.*

An English wreath we fain would lay  
Upon this mighty tomb to-day,  
Of laurel, ivy, oak, and yew,  
Which drank the English sun and dew  
On far-off Yorkshire's grassy sod;  
Where once—we boast—his fathers trod,  
Whom East and West unite to praise  
And crown with never-fading bays.

O Washington, thy symbol be  
The oak for strength and constancy,  
For grandeur and for grace of form,  
For calmness in the stress and storm.  
The monarch of the forest thou!  
To thee the generations bow;  
And under thy great shadow rest,  
Forever free, forever blest.

And thine the laurel, for the fame  
Illustrious of a conqueror's name;  
Patient to wait and prompt to strike,  
Intrepid, fiery, mild alike;  
Great, for the greatness of the foe,  
Which fell by thy repeated blow;  
Great, for thy country's greatness, won  
By thee, her most beloved son.

And as the ivy twines around  
 Cottage and tower, thy heart was found  
 Clinging to home, and church, and wife,  
 The sweeter for the finished strife.  
 And so thy memory, like the yew,  
 Will still be green to mortal view;  
 "The greatest of good men" confest  
 By all, and of great men the best!

*Letitia H. Walker,*  
 Chairman.

*Rebecca B. Flandrau.*  
*Frances C. Maxey.*

Council adjourned at 12:30.

*Afternoon Session.*

Mr. E. Francis Riggs, Treasurer of the Association, appeared before the Council with his statement of the financial condition of the Association, as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Washington, D. C., May 9, 1900.

*Mrs. J. V. R. Townsend, Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association:*

Madam,—It is again my privilege to prepare and submit the accompanying statements of the General Account and Endowment Fund for the year just past.

Balance to credit of the General Account in bank.....	\$9,500.34
Balance to credit of the Endowment Fund in bank.....	6,825.34

The Portland & Rochester Railroad having been absorbed by the Boston & Maine Railroad, it became necessary to exchange the three shares of the former stock, held in the Endowment Fund, for an equal number of shares of the Boston & Maine Railroad. This was effected, but the



Company requests confirmatory action by Council, and I enclose form of resolution for that purpose. It will be noted that \$4,500 of our Washington real-estate loans have been paid off, and investments in like kind to extent of \$9,000 have been made, after consultation with yourself. The rates of interest on safe mortgages in Washington steadily decline. One of these, for \$4,500, matured in April, bearing 5 per cent interest, and I was glad to permit an extension of \$4,000 for five years at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Another, of \$6,000, matures in this month, and a reduction of interest in this case to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent seems necessary. All good listed securities are so high that they barely bring an income of 3 per cent.

I hold for the Endowment Fund:

*Mortgage Loans.*

John F. Shea, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, extended to October 18, 1903.....	\$4,000
Chas. A. Stockett, 5 per cent, extended to April 29, 1901.....	1,000
M. E. Mormann, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, extended to April 18, 1905.....	4,000
Annie B. Craig, 5 per cent, due May 21, 1900.....	6,000
Olive Risley Seward, 5 per cent, May 1, 1903.....	5,000
Fersinger, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, August 10, 1902.....	3,500
McCarthy, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, October 10, 1904.....	500
John Lynch, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, May 22, 1902.....	3,000
D. Wm. Oyster, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, June 1, 1904.....	2,000
	<hr/>
	\$29,000

*Bonds, Etc.*

U. S. Registered, 4 per cent of 1907, par value.....	\$9,300
Board of Education, St. Paul, Minn., $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, 1919.....	5,000
School District of Omaha, 5 per cent, 1908.....	5,000
Licking County, Ohio, 6 per cent, 1907.....	5,000
Boston & Maine Railroad Stock.....	300
Georgia Railroad Securities, etc., of uncertain value.....	
	<hr/>
	\$53,600

I am, madam,

Very respectfully,

*E. Francis Riggs,*

Treasurer.

Action of the Treasurer, in the matter of the change from Portland & Rochester Railroad stock to shares of Boston & Maine Railroad, was ratified by the Regent in presence of the Council.

Council adjourned at 4:45 p. m.

## FIFTH DAY—TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1900.

### *Morning Session.*

Opening exercises.

Roll called.

Present:

MRS. J. V. R. TOWNSEND, Regent.  
 MRS. WALKER, Vice-Regent for North Carolina.  
 MRS. SWEAT, Vice-Regent for Maine.  
 MRS. HUDSON, Vice-Regent for Connecticut.  
 MISS COMEGYS, Vice-Regent for Delaware.  
 MISS LONGFELLOW, Vice-Regent for Massachusetts.  
 MRS. WARD, Vice-Regent for Kansas.  
 MRS. FLANDRAU, Vice-Regent for Minnesota.  
 MRS. BALL, Vice-Regent for Virginia.  
 MRS. WINDER, Vice-Regent for New Hampshire.  
 MRS. BAKER, Vice-Regent for Florida.  
 MRS. MAXEY, Vice-Regent for Texas.  
 MRS. AMES, Vice-Regent for Rhode Island.  
 MRS. HARRISON, Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania.  
 MISS TOWNSEND, Vice-Regent for New York.  
 MRS. CAMPBELL, Vice-Regent for Ohio.  
 MRS. RATHBONE, Vice-Regent for Michigan.

Minutes of Monday read and accepted.

Discussion resumed on the appropriation recommended by the Committee on Grounds, Trees, and Shrubs.

Moved by Mrs. Walker, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, that an appropriation be made to repair the gutters and add to the brick pavement around the Tomb as suggested by committee.

Discussion to be resumed.

Council adjourned at 10:30 to meet the Governor of Virginia and the Board of Visitors.

*Afternoon Session.*

Council met at 3 o'clock.

A telegram was received at noon from Governor Tyler, of Virginia, stating that it would be impossible for him to be at Mount Vernon to-day. He was represented by his Secretary, Mr. Owens, and the following members of the Board of Visitors: Dr. J. L. M. Curry, Richmond, Va.; Mr. B. O. James, Richmond, Va.; Mr. L. P. Stearns, Newport News, Va.; Mr. R. B. Hartlett, Sussex County, Va.; Mr. N. S. Walter, Warren County, Va.

After lunch and a tour of the grounds, the gentlemen came into the Council Room, where, on behalf of the Governor, Mr. Owens extended a welcome to the soil of Virginia to the ladies representing the Association for the preservation of the home of the hero. This was followed by a patriotic and feeling address by Dr. Curry. Remarks were also made by Mr. James and Mr. Hartlett, expressive of the emotions aroused by the atmosphere of the sacred spot.

After these exercises, the Council resumed its session and the discussion of the recommendations of committees.

Motion was made, and seconded, that a committee of the whole should visit the cedar hedge on the north of the Estate. Carried, and at 4:45 o'clock the Council adjourned.

**SIXTH DAY—WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1900.**

*Morning Session.*

Opening exercises.

Roll called.

Present:

MRS. J. V. R. TOWNSEND, Regent.

MRS. WALKER, Vice-Regent for North Carolina.

MRS. SWEAT, Vice-Regent for Maine.  
 MRS. HUDSON, Vice-Regent for Connecticut.  
 MRS. BALL, Vice-Regent for Virginia.  
 MRS. WARD, Vice-Regent for Kansas.  
 MRS. FLANDRAU, Vice-Regent for Minnesota.  
 MRS. MAXEY, Vice-Regent for Texas.  
 MRS. AMES, Vice-Regent for Rhode Island.  
 MRS. WINDER, Vice-Regent for New Hampshire.  
 MRS. BAKER, Vice-Regent for Florida.  
 MRS. HARRISON, Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania.  
 MISS TOWNSEND, Vice-Regent for New York.  
 MRS. CAMPBELL, Vice-Regent for Ohio.  
 MRS. RATHBONE, Vice-Regent for Michigan.  
 MISS COMEGYS, Vice-Regent for Delaware.  
 MISS LONGFELLOW, Vice-Regent for Massachusetts.

Minutes of Tuesday read and accepted.

Letter of Commander Davenport, U. S. Navy, regarding the rest of the series of pictures illustrating the "Sorrows of Werther." They are owned by Mrs. Dr. Beverley Tucker, rector of St. Paul's Church, Norfolk, Va. Letter was handed Mrs. Ball, Chairman of Relic Committee.

Regent handed the ladies their traveling expenses.

Regent signed boat contract for the coming year, and the commission of the Superintendent, Mr. Dodge, in presence of the Council.

List of Directions from Committees, given to Mr. Dodge, regarding improvements and repairs for the coming year.

Moved by Mrs. Maxey, Vice-Regent for Texas, that the west room on the first floor of the East Quarters be set aside for a Committee Room. Seconded by Miss Townsend, Vice-Regent for New York. Carried.

Moved by the Vice-Regent for North Carolina:

The year of 1903 will be the fiftieth anniversary of the inception of Miss A. P. Cunningham's idea of purchasing the estate of Mount Vernon. During this year was issued the "Southern Matron's Appeal" to the women of America to become co-laborers with her in the noble work of purchasing and restoring the sacred place to its original condition. I move, when the Council shall assemble next year, the ladies shall formulate some plans for the commemoration of this

occasion in a proper manner, and gratefully make a suitable memorial to the memory of our first Regent.

Seconded by the Vice-Regent for Massachusetts.

Council adjourned without taking action on the above resolution.

### *Afternoon Session.*

Council met at 1:45 o'clock. Mrs. Walker's resolution concerning a tribute to Miss Cunningham was taken up and passed.

The question of granting the privilege of taking photographs of objects in the Mansion for illustrating articles or books was discussed. The following resolution was offered by Mrs. E. W. Harrison, Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania, and seconded:

*Resolved*, That no photographs be taken in the Mansion. That the present Council so instruct the Superintendent, and that special requests to the Regent be left to her discretion.

An amendment was offered by Miss Longfellow:

That no photographs shall be taken of the interior of the Mansion, except by special permission of the Regent.

Vote on the amendment lost; 11 nays, 3 ayes.

Vote on the original motion, by Mrs. Harrison, carried.

The following nominations to fill vacancies were announced by the Regent, to be acted upon next year:

Mrs. C. F. Manderson, Omaha, Nebraska.

Mrs. Eugene Van Rensselaer, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

Mrs. Robert D. Johnston, Birmingham, Ala.

The Regent renewed her annual gift of \$50 to Endowment Fund.

Moved that the sum of \$20.00 be given to Sarah Johnson because of her special need at this time. Moved by Elizabeth B. Rathbone, seconded by Mrs. Sweat. Carried.

The Regent announced the following list of Committees:

*Finance.*—Mrs. Mitchell, Chairman; Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Rathbone.

*Mansion.*—Mrs. Barnes, Chairman; Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Goldsborough, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Wilder.

*Tomb.*—Mrs. Walker, Chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Goldsborough, Mrs. Maxey.

*Relics.*—Mrs. Ball, Chairman; Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Winder, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Baker.

*Grounds, Trees, and Shrubs.*—Mrs. Leiter, Chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Campbell, Miss Townsend.

*Guide-Book.*—Mrs. Webb, Chairman; Miss Longfellow.

*Farm.*—Mrs. Hearst, Chairman; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Webb.

*Press.*—Mrs. Rathbone, Chairman; Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Winder, Mrs. Hill.

*Library.*—Miss Longfellow, Chairman; Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Webb.

*Garden and Greenhouse.*—Mrs. Mitchell, Chairman; Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Leiter, Mrs. Wilder, Miss Amy Townsend, Mrs. Maxey, Miss Comegys.

*Record.*—Miss Comegys, Chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Ward.

*Furniture of Mansion.*—Mrs. Ames, Chairman; Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Graham, Miss Amy Townsend, Miss Harrison.

*Parliamentary Rules.*—Mrs. Sweat, Chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Goldsborough.

*Index.*—Mrs. Flandrau, Chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Richardson.

*By-Laws.*—Mrs. Richardson, Chairman; Mrs. Winder, Mrs. Ames.

*Kitchen Garden.*—Mrs. Harrison, Chairman; Miss Townsend, Miss Comegys.

#### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Your committee would respectfully report a faithful examination of the Regent's Financial Statement and of bills and vouchers for the past year, and that they find them clear, correct, and concise. Your committee has also compared the reports of the Treasurer and of the Superintendent, including the accounts of the Purser and of the Gardener, and reports them entirely accurate and satisfactory.

Total receipts during the year.....\$41,407.39

Total expenditures during the year..... 31,907.05

Balance to credit of general account.....\$9,500.34

Total amount of Endowment Fund invested May 1st.....\$53,600.00

Amount on hand for investment.....\$6,825.34

The Portland & Rochester Railroad having been absorbed by the Boston & Maine Railroad, it became necessary to exchange the three shares of the former held in the Endowment Fund for an equal number of shares in the Boston & Maine Railroad. This was effected, and the requisite confirmatory action was given by the Council.

#### APPROXIMATE ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES FOR COMING YEAR.

Pay-roll.....	\$10,980.00
Insurance (3 years).....	350.50
Coal.....	650.00
Telephone rental.....	175.00
Guide-books.....	750.00
Deer Park extension.....	150.00
Lime and fertilizers.....	300.00
Broadus pension.....	312.00
Gratuity to servants.....	50.00
Pew-rent at Pohick.....	60.00
Paving brick and gutter at Tomb.....	50.00
Furniture for Office.....	125.00
Bedsteads and mattresses.....	60.00

Gardener.....	\$ 200.00
Regent's secretary and traveling expenses.....	300.00
Secretary's salary.....	100.00
Office expenses.....	50.00
Silver candlesticks (relics).....	200.00
Gift to Sarah from Council.....	20.00
Total.....	<u>\$14,882.50</u>

*Emma R. Ball.*

*Letitia H. Walker.*

*Margaret J. M. Sweat.*

*Jennie M. Ward.*

*Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone.*

Vice-Regent for Florida left by boat at noon.

Vice-Regents for Ohio and New Hampshire left by last boat.

Mrs. Flandrau, Chairman of Mansion Committee, offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the use of kerosene in the Mansion, which has only been customary during sessions of the Council, be discontinued altogether.

Seconded by Miss Comegys, and carried.

Council adjourned at 4:45 p. m.

#### STATEMENT OF E. FRANCIS RIGGS, TREASURER OF MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION.

##### General Account.

1899.	Receipts.	
May 6.	Balance, as per report.....	\$11,582.83
23.	Donation, Mrs. Graham, Missouri, hot-water plant,	200.00
23.	" Mrs. Harrison, Pennsylvania, Deer Park,	50.00
23.	" Mrs. Flandrau, Minnesota, Garden.....	10.00
23.	" Mrs. Ames, Rhode Island, Artesian well,	300.00
23.	" Mrs. Conover, New Jersey, Artesian well,	200.00
23.	" Mrs. Rathbone, Michigan, Artesian well,	50.00
23.	" Mrs. Campbell, Ohio, Artesian well.....	25.00
23.	" Mrs. Harrison, Penn., Artesian well....	50.00
23.	" Mrs. Graham, Missouri, Artesian well...	50.00
23.	" Mrs. Hudson, Conn., General Account...	28.63
23.	" Mrs. Goldsborough, Md., Gen'l Account,	10.00
23.	" Mrs. Harrison, Penn., General Account..	11.00
June 1.	" Mrs. Graham, Missouri, hot-water plant,	10.00
1.	" Mrs. Graham, Missouri, Deer Park.....	44.56
1.	" Mrs. Hearst, California, Sea-wall.....	1,000.00



July 6.	Donation, Mrs. Leiter, Illinois; Mrs. Ames and Mrs. Conover.. . . .	\$ 50.00
6.	Cincinnati Gas Co., dividend.....	10.00
Aug. 14.	Donation, Mrs. Hearst, California.....	1,500.00
14.	Through Mrs. Hudson, Connecticut.....	150.00
Oct. 14.	Cincinnati Gas Co., dividend.....	10.00
30.	McGill, interest on mortgage.....	250.00
1900.		
Jan. 2.	Cincinnati Gas Co., dividend.....	10.00
10.	Donation, Mrs. Leiter, Illinois.....	100.00
April 2.	Cincinnati Gas Co., dividend.....	10.00
23.	McGill, interest on mortgage.....	250.00
	Proceeds of Estate deposited by Superintendent...	4,309.16
	Railway travel by Superintendent.....	13,965.75
	Boat travel by Superintendent.....	7,070.50
	Boat wharfage.....	99.96
	Total receipts.....	\$41,407.39
	Balance.....	\$9,500.34

*Disbursements.*

1899.			
May 15.	Regent's check, 518, H. H. Dodge, trav. expenses...	\$ 588.00	
18.	" " 519, Anna M. Lalse.....	40.00	
27.	" " 521, S. E. J. Hudson.....	5.00	
29.	" " 519, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	915.00	
June 7.	" " 522, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	2,485.86	
22.	" " 524, Nat. S. D., S. & T. Co.....	15.00	
29.	" " 525, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	915.00	
July 8.	" " 526, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	775.38	
15.	" " 527, Jennie M. Ward.....	12.00	
19.	" " 528, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	1,100.00	
21.	" " 529, Jennie M. Ward.....	28.63	
24.	" " 530, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	915.00	
Aug. 7.	" " 531, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	288.79	
10.	" " 532, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	3,400.00	
22.	" " 533, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	915.00	
Sept. 9.	" " 534, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	692.78	
9.	" " 535, Jennie M. Ward.....	138.20	
26.	" " 536, Jas. Young, Ass't Sup't.....	915.00	
Oct. 12.	" " 537, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	1,152.89	
28.	" " 540, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	915.00	
Nov. 8.	" " 541, Katherine V. R. Berry.....	150.00	
6.	" " 542, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent..	497.76	
27.	" " 543, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	915.00	
Dec. 7.	" " 544, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	6,718.59	
14.	" " 545, N. B. Nevitt, Treasurer.....	60.00	
14.	" " 546, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	50.00	
19.	" " 547, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	915.00	
19.	" " 548, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	845.04	

1900.			
Jan 24.	Regent's check, 549,	H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	\$ 915.00
7.	"	" 550, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	168.81
Feb. 20.	"	" 551, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	915.00
Mar. 8.	"	" 552, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	318.01
21.	"	" 553, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	915.00
27.	"	" 554, Jennie M. Ward.....	100.00
27.	"	" 555, Harriet T. Barber.....	100.00
April 7.	"	" 556, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	401.86
7.	"	" 557, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	915.00
30.	"	" 559, H. H. Dodge, Superintendent,	794.45
Balance.....			9,500.34

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\$41,407.39

*E. Francis Riggs,*  
Treasurer.

May 5, 1900.

### ENDOWMENT FUND.

#### *Receipts.*

1899.			
May 6.	Balance, per Report.....		\$8,705.34
June 6.	Donation, Mrs. Townsend, New York.....		50.00
	U. S. 4 per cent, interest.....		372.00
	County of Licking, Ohio, interest.....		300.00
	Omaha School District, interest.....		250.00
	St. Paul School District, interest.....		225.00
	Portland & Rochester R. R., div.....		18.00
	Boston & Maine R. R., div.....		5.25
	Interest on mortgage, Pearson.....		300.00
	" " " Craig..		300.00
	" " " Mormann.....		225.00
	" " " Shea..		180.00
	" " " Stockett.....		50.00
	" " " Seward..		250.00
	" " " Lynch, 6 months.....		67.50
	" " " Oyster, 6 months.....		45.00
	" " " Fersinger, 6 months.....		78.75
	" " " McCarthy, 6 months.....		11.25
Aug. 25.	Mortgage paid, Pearson, due May 16, 1900.....		4,000.00
1900.			
April 9.	Mortgage paid, Mormann, on account.....		500.00
			<hr/>
			\$15,933.09

#### *Investments.*

1899.			
June 6.	Mortgage notes, John Lynch, 4½ per cent,	\$3,000.00	
	Mortgage notes, D. William Oyster, 4½		
	per cent .....	2,000.00	

Sept.	9.	Mortgage notes, Fersinger, 4½ per cent,		
		.. .. .	\$3,500.00	
		Interest on same.....	12.25	
Oct.	19.	Interest (Pearson) returned.....	95.00	
	23.	Mortgage notes, McCarthy (and interest), 4½ per cent.....	500.50	9,107.75
			<hr/>	

1900.

May	5.	Balance, Endowment Fund.....	\$6,825.34
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*E. Francis Riggs,*  
Treasurer.

May 5, 1900.

## SEVENTH DAY—THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1900.

Council met at 9:30 o'clock.

Opening exercises.

Roll called.

Present:

MRS. J. V. R. TOWNSEND, Regent.

MRS. WALKER, Vice-Regent for North Carolina.

MRS. SWEAT, Vice-Regent for Maine.

MRS. BALL, Vice-Regent for Virginia.

MRS. WARD, Vice-Regent for Kansas.

MRS. FLANDRAU, Vice-Regent for Minnesota.

MRS. MAXEY, Vice-Regent for Texas.

MRS. AMES, Vice-Regent for Rhode Island.

MRS. HARRISON, Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania.

MISS COMEGYS, Vice-Regent for Delaware.

MISS LONGFELLOW, Vice-Regent for Massachusetts.

MISS TOWNSEND, Vice-Regent for New York.

MRS. RATHBONE, Vice-Regent for Michigan.

Mrs. Hudson left by early train.

Minutes of Wednesday read, corrected, and accepted.

Report of Committee on Grounds, Trees, and Shrubs  
read, amended, and accepted.

Various letters not requiring official action were read.

A letter was read from Mrs. Goldsborough, withdrawing  
her resignation.

Letter from John H. Wills, 506 Eleventh Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C., offering for sale "50 copies of 'Recol-

lections and Private Memoirs of Washington,' by G. W. Parke Custis, of Arlington, published at Washington, 1859, at 25 cents each for the lot. The books have never been used, and are in excellent condition, considering their age." The books were procured by Miss Longfellow, and many of the ladies secured copies; the others being left for sale at Mount Vernon.

Miss Amy Townsend, from Garden and Greenhouse Committee, requested action by the Council on the question of filling the spaces where stood the evergreens which were killed last winter. She asks if boxwood trees will be considered appropriate. The Council, after discussion, decided it would be desirable to place such trees there.

The matter of cutting cedars from the row on the north (no action being taken by the Council) was left to the Regent and Superintendent. The Regent urged the ladies to be present at the beginning of each Council and remain to its close.

Presented by Mrs. Ball, Vice-Regent for Virginia:

*Resolved*, That the Vice-Regents in Council assembled express to the Regent their thanks for her uniformly kind courtesy and patient, untiring energy throughout our sessions of Council. They would also express their high appreciation of the judgment and discrimination which especially distinguish her as our presiding officer.

Passed unanimously.

Offered by Mrs. Walker, the Vice-Regent for North Carolina.

The Council would express to Mrs. Ward, Secretary of Councils, its approval of the first year's labor in the office, to which she was selected and appointed by the unanimous vote of same.

No further business requiring consideration, the Regent declared the Council of 1900 adjourned.

The next Council will meet Thursday, May 9, 1901, at Mount Vernon.

*Jennie M. Ward,*

Secretary and Vice-Regent for Kansas.

Mount Vernon, Va., May 17, 1900.

The Regent presented her Annual Report as follows:

REGENT'S STATEMENT.

*Expenditures from May 1, 1899, to May 1, 1900.*

1899.	Chk.		
May 17.	518,	Traveling expenses of Vice-Regents.....	\$ 588.00
29.	519,	Harrison H. Dodge, Superintendent, pay-roll for May... ..	915.00
18.	520,	Stenographer and typewriter at Council.....	40.00
27.	521,	Mrs. S. E. J. Hudson, advanced for additional sum to stenographer and typewriter.....	5.00
June 7.	522,	Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., Richard Broadus' pension for May, '99, \$26; extra laborers' wages, \$90.95; mill feed, \$12.75; shoeing horses, \$3.95; paint, oils, etc., \$20.07; Wharf fence, etc., \$50.00; painting fences and buildings, \$51.00; oil-cloth, 60c; curtain poles, \$1.45; repairs on stoves, \$3.50; repairing mower, 25c; repairs on range, \$1.10; col- ored views of Mount Vernon, \$335.12; express, freight, tele- grams, etc., \$14.85.....	\$ 611.59
		<i>Specials.</i> —Sea-wall, \$656.31; tel- ephone, \$175; Guide-books, \$500; improvements to grounds, plant- ing and purchasing evergreens, \$32.80.....	1,364.11
		<i>Council Expenses.</i> — Groceries, \$105.35; vegetables and fruit, \$80.63; meats, \$42.06; ice cream, \$34.60; butter and eggs, etc., \$19.28; shad, \$3.00; kitchen uten- sils, \$23.72; stationery, \$35.22; newspapers, \$4.60; ice, \$2.75; tel- egrams, telephone, miscellaneous supplies, \$14.70; extra servants, \$94.25.....	460.16
		Gratuity to servants, by order of Council... ..	50.00
7.	523,	Investment for Endowment Fund...	5,000.00
22.	524,	Vault at Savings Bank, Safe and Trust Co., Washington, D. C., an- nual payment... ..	15.00
29.	525,	Harrison H. Dodge, Superintendent, pay-roll for month of June.....	915.00
July 8.	526,	Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., Richard Broadus' pension, \$26.00; day la- borers, \$78.03; mill feed, \$10.20; hardware, \$22.27; repairs to mow- er, 95c; shoeing horses, \$4.30; ice, \$1.25; farm seeds and implements, \$28.15; freight, telephone, \$6.56..	177.71

		<i>Specials.</i> —Deer Park, \$27.30; Sea-wall laborers and sand, \$203.47; uniforms for Guards, \$15; lawn mower, \$36; wall paper in back Hall, \$45.00; hanging and varnishing, \$20.90; second and last payment Guide-books, \$250.00		\$ 597.67	\$ 775.38
15.	527, Jennie M. Ward, expense of printing a little bit from the Record.....				12.00
19.	528, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., on account of heating apparatus, \$700; Sea-wall, \$350; Deer Park, \$500..			1,100.00	
21.	529, Jennie M. Ward, late Secretary's official balance of money.....				28.63
21.	530, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., pay-roll for month of July.....				915.00
Aug. 1.	531, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., Richard Broadus' pension, \$26.00; day laborers, \$55.55; mill feed, \$33.75; shoeing horses, \$6.10; ice, \$7.75; netting, \$1.60; white oak piles, \$10.00; repairs for stove, \$1.50; mechanical instruments, \$7.85; repairs to mower, \$1.55; drain pipes, \$2.51; telephone, postage, and express, \$6.25.....		160.41		
	<i>Specials.</i> — Sea-wall, building stone, \$245.25; labor on same, \$183.01; constructing boiler-house, \$708; roofing, \$10.57; freight, 91c; Deer Park, Page woven wire and freight, \$80.64 (\$1,100 previously advanced).....		1,228.38		288.79
10.	532, For hot-water plant, in advance, \$3,000; Sea-wall, \$400.00.....				3,400 00
10.	533, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., pay-roll for August.....				915.00
10.	534, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., Richard Broadus' pension, \$26.00; extra laborers, \$17.95; mill feed, \$30.75; laths for repairs, \$1.80; soap, \$1.08; stationery, \$2.95; ice, \$7.75; iron for repairs, \$2.75; shoeing horses, \$2.00; clover seed, \$5.30; repairing harness, \$1.00; chemical analysis of water, \$10.00; repairs to pump, \$7.75; paints, oils, etc., \$23.12; telephone, postage, freight, telegrams, and brooms, \$7.97....		148.17		
	<i>Specials.</i> — Sea-wall, \$944.61; hot-water system, first payment on account, \$3,000.00 (\$3,400 hav-				

		ing been paid in advance).....	\$544.61	\$ 692.78
Sept.	9.	535, Jennie M. Ward, printer's bill, Kansas City, Mo.....		138.20
	26.	536, James M. Young, Ass't Supt., pay-roll for September....		915.00
	26.	537, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., Richard Broadus' pension for September, \$26.00; day laborers' wages, \$15.80; mill feed, \$29.00; shoeing horses, \$4.00; colored views of Mount Vernon, \$68.75; ice, \$8.00; cutting corn, \$11.23; pipe fittings, \$1.76; repairing pump, \$1.56; telephone, postage, express, repairing mower, \$6.42.....	172.52	
		<i>Specials.</i> —Labor on Sea-wall, \$247.14; coal supply, \$584.64; Greenhouse repairs, \$37.50; stock plants, \$71.69; miscellaneous repairs, plastering, etc., \$39.40.....	980.37	1,152.89
Oct.	19.	538, John E. McLeran, to refund Endowment Fund....	95.00	
	23.	539, J. J. McCarthy, investment for Endowment Fund..	500.50	
	27.	540, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., pay-roll for October..		915.00
Nov.	7.	541, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., Richard Broadus' pension for October, \$26.00; day laborers' wages, \$37.20; mill feed, \$32.10; brooms, soap, etc., \$2.96; ice, \$6.00; blacksmithing, \$3.10; repairing pump, 68c; oil, paints, etc., \$14.37; pipe for drains, \$19.50; telephone, postage, express, freight, revenue stamps, \$9.65..	151.56	
		<i>Specials.</i> —Labor on Sea-wall, \$146.49; repairs to Greenhouses, \$105.75; uniforms for Guards, \$67.50; miscellaneous repairs, \$26.46..	346.20	497.76
	9.	542, Regent, traveling expenses, paper, Secretary's expenses..		150.00
	9.	543, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., pay-roll for November..		915.00
Dec.	6.	544, Dr. N. B. Nevitt, Treasurer Pohick Church..		60.00
	6.	545, Regent, for traveling expenses.....		50.00
	6.	546, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., Richard Broadus' pension for November, \$26.00; day laborers' wages, \$94.50; mill feed, \$23.00; Mount		

		Vernon views, \$6.25; shucking corn, \$13.72; lumber for repairs, \$34.72; gratings for Lodge windows, \$13.60; window shades, \$6.65; "pantasote" for sofa, \$6.90; turnstile, \$40.00; telephone, postage, telegrams, express, and freight, \$4.84.. .. .	\$ 270.18	
		<i>Specials.</i> — Heating apparatus, \$4,020; Artesian well, \$2,413.41; uniforms for Guards, \$15.00....	6,448.41	\$6,718.59
	31.	547, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., pay-roll for December.. .. .		915.00
1900.				
Jan.	6.	548, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., Richard Broadus' pension for December, \$26.00; day laborers' wages for December, \$56.78; mill feed, \$15.55; shoeing horses, \$3.00; eave-gutters for Porticos, \$19.95; lamp chimneys, lantern, etc., \$2.84; ice, \$7.25; soap and pearl-ine, \$1.56; farm seeds and imple-ments, \$15.10; oil, paints, etc., \$15.28; stationery, \$1.25; calking irons, \$1.25; repairing sofa, \$20.50; hardware (6 months), \$25.95; Mount Vernon views, \$28.75; tel-ephone, postage, chimneys, and freight, \$5.85.. .. .	246.86	
		<i>Specials.</i> — Heating apparatus, \$438.43; cistern repairs, \$56.00; Centennial Celebration, December 14, 1899, \$103.75.....	598.18	845.04
	24.	549, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., pay-roll for January, 1900.....		915.00
Feb.	7.	550, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., Richard Broadus' pension for January, \$26.00; extra laborers, \$48.85; mill feed, \$22.98; cutting and hauling ice, \$35.00; hauling ma-terial, \$7.50; hydrometer, \$2.50; paints, oils, etc, \$22.60; telephone, postage, and freight, \$3.38.....		168.81
	20.	551, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., pay-roll for February.. .. .		915.00
Mch.	8.	552, Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., Richard Broadus' pension, \$26.00; extra laborers, \$45.70; mill feed, \$13.15; brooms, etc., \$2.85; shoeing horses (2 months), \$6.75; stationery, \$9.92; oil, paints, etc., \$11.63;		



		Mount Vernon views, \$176.52; telephone and postage, \$2.74.....	\$295.26	
		<i>Specials.</i> —Stock plants, bulbs, etc.. . . . .	22.75	\$318.01
21.	553,	Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., pay-roll for March.. . . .		915.00
27.	554,	Mrs. Jennie M. Ward, Secretary of Council, as ordered by Council of 1899.. . . .		100.00
27.	555,	Regent's traveling expenses and Sec- retary's salary.. . . .		100.00
April 7.	556,	Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., Richard Broadus' pension, \$26.00; extra laborers, \$75.70; mill feed, \$17.00; mailing tubes for views, \$1.50; brushes, soap, etc., \$2.45; oil heat- er for Guard at Tomb, \$2.35; re- pairs to typewriter, \$11.25; cement and lime for repairs, \$12.20; Mount Vernon views, \$247.47; re- pairs to steam pump, \$2.50; re- pairing harness, 60c; postage, tel- ephone, and freight, \$2.84.....		401.86
29.	557.	Harrison H. Dodge, Supt., pay-roll for April.. . . .		915.00
30.	558,	Harrison, H. Dodge, Supt., Richard Broadus' pension, \$26.00; extra laborers, \$125.92; mill feed, \$24.78; shoeing horses, etc., \$5.55; oil, paints, etc., \$10.24; lumber for repairs, \$19.23; hardware (5 months), \$12.74; repairing tin roof and eave-gutters, \$65.90; re- paring wood-work and plastering in Mansion, \$34.35; farm imple- ments and clover seed, \$10.37; farm seeds, fertilizers, etc., \$33.81; Mount Vernon views, \$43.80; tel- ephone, \$2.10; postage, \$2.27; soap, 54c; collar pads, 70c; hire of cart, \$2.00.....	420.30	
		<i>Specials.</i> — Fruit-trees, \$7.90; coal, \$26.25; 6 uniforms for Guards, \$90.00; pair of bay horses, \$250.00.. . . .	374.15	794.45
Total disbursements.. . . .				\$31,907.05

## REGENT'S SPECIAL CHECKS.

1899.

May.

*Sea-Wall.*

James H. McGill, cement.....	\$258.00	
John Miller, freight on cement.....	12.90	
Smith & Son, broken stone, \$105.40; building stone, \$108.36.....	213.76	
Smort & Co., felt roofing, etc.....	11.47	
Laborers employed on work.....	160.18	\$656.31

*Telephone.*

Southern Bell Telephone and Tele- graph Co., line service.....		175 00
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*Guide-Books.*

L. H. House, on account for Guide- books.. ..		500.00
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*Improvement to Grounds.*

D. O. Munson, evergreens.....	23.80	
D. A. McGregor, planting evergreens,	9.00	32 80

*Council Expenses.*

C. C. Bryan, groceries.....	105.35	
Cannon & Chandler, vegetables, fruits, etc.. ..	80.63	
O. F. Baggett, mats.....	42.06	
Chas. Rauscher, ice cream, etc.....	34.60	
Lewis Gillingham, butter, eggs, etc..	19.28	
Charlotte Barus, shad.....	3.00	
Dulin & Martin, kitchen utensils....	23.72	
Eaton & Rupp, stationery.....	35.22	
Washington Post Co., daily papers..	4.60	
National Capital Ice Co., ice.....	2.75	
Incidentals, telegrams, \$3.81; tele- phone, \$8.25; miscellaneous sup- plies, \$2.64.. ..	14.70	
Extra servants.. ..	94.25	460.16

*Gratuity to Servants.*

Distributed by order of Council.....		50.00
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*Deer Park.*

June.

Day laborers, grading and setting posts.. ..		27.30
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*Sea-Wall.*

Laborers employed in work.....	190.12	
R. E. Grover, sand.....	13.35	203.47

*Uniforms.*

Saks & Co., suit for Guard.....		15.00
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*Lawn Mower.*

Richard H. Wattles, mower.....		36.00
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*Wall Paper.*

Nevins & Haviland, paper, back Hall of Mansion.. . . .	\$ 45.00	
E. W. Starnell, papering and varnishing.. . . .	20.90	\$ 65.90

*Guide-Books.*

Miss L. W. House, balance due on Guide-books.. . . .		250.00
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*Sea-Wall.*

July.	Chas. G. Smith & Son, building stone,	245.25	
	Laborers employed on work.....	183.01	428.26

*Hot-Water System.*

Gilroy & Howard, constructing boiler-house.. . . .	708.00	
The Pennsylvania Metal Ceiling and Roofing Co., roofing for boiler-house.. . . .	10.57	
Freight.. . . .	.91	719.48

*Extension Deer Park.*

J. T. Dutrow, agent Page woven wire,	77.50	
Freight.. . . .	3.14	80.64

*Sea-Wall.*

August.	Chas. G. Smith & Son, stone for wall,	469.40	
	J. H. McGill, cement.....	169.05	
	John Miller & Co., freight on cement,	7.50	
	R. E. Grover, sand for wall.....	7.50	
	Laborers employed on work.....	291.16	944.61

*Hot-Water System.*

Linch & Woodward, first payment on account.. . . .		3,000.00
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*Sea-Wall.*

September.	Laborers employed in constructing wall.. . . .		247.14
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*Coal.*

Jno. P. Agnew & Co., coal supply....		584.64
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*Greenhouse Repairs.*

Jesse Murray, carpentering.....		37.50
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*Stock Plants, etc., for Greenhouse.*

J. R. Freeman, carnations.....	50.00	
Paul Mader, primroses, etc.....	11.75	
Wm. H. Ernest, flower-pots.....	9.94	71.69

*Miscellaneous Repairs.*

Michael Dowling, plasterer.....	35.00	
Robinson's Sons, lime, etc.....	4.40	39.40

<i>Sea-Wall.</i>			
October.	Pay-roll of employees engaged on work... ..		\$ 146.49
<i>Repairs to Greenhouse.</i>			
	Leadbeater & Sons, paints, oil, etc..\$	53.25	
	Daniel Travers, painting and glazing... ..	52.50	105.75
<i>Uniforms for Guards.</i>			
	Goodyear Rubber Co., rubber boots and coats... ..		67.50
<i>Miscellaneous Repairs.</i>			
	Gilroy & Howard, repairs to brick work... ..		26.46
<i>Hot-Water System.</i>			
November.	Linch & Woodward, balance on work, Bernard R. Greene, C. E., preparation of contract, etc.....		3,970.00 50.00
<i>Artesian Well.</i>			
	J. H. K. Shannahan, driving well, etc.,	2,179.34	
	Jno. P. Agnew & Co., soft coal.....	88.00	
	John Mitchell, Jr., fittings for pump,	47.78	
	Forsberg & Murray, repairs to boiler and pump... ..	98.29	2,413.41
<i>Uniforms for Guards.</i>			
	Saks & Co., one suit.....		15.00
<i>Hot-Water System.</i>			
December.	S. Homer Woodbridge Co., services rendered, drawing plans and specifications, etc... ..		438.43
<i>Cistern Repairs.</i>			
	Gilroy & Howard, reconstructing cistern... ..		56.00
<i>Centennial Celebration, December 14, 1899.</i>			
	Extra Guards, employed December 14, 1899... ..	61.25	
	Mrs. Linkins, luncheon, etc.....	35.00	
	Baumgarten & Son, badges.....	7.50	103.75
<i>Stock Plants for Greenhouse.</i>			
February.	Henry A. Dreer, bulbs, etc.....		22.75
<i>Improvements to Grounds.</i>			
April.	D. O. Munson, fruit-trees.....		7.90

*Coal.*

Jno. P. Agnew & Co., 5 tons coal....	\$26.25
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*Uniforms for Guards.*

Saks & Co., 6 uniforms.....	90.00
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*Farm.*

Thos. W. Riley, pair bay horses.....	250.00
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	\$16 414.99
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12.5  
11.33  
1.3

*Mr Davis*  
*Compliments of*  
*E. B. A. Kettner*  
*Sept. 21, 01*

1901.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association**

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OF THE

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KANSAS CITY, MO.  
HUDSON-KIMBERLY PUBLISHING CO.  
1901.





**OFFICERS**  
**OF THE**  
**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.**

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*Regent,*

**MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND,**  
**New York City.**

**Summer Address, Southampton, Long Island.**

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*Vice-Regents,*

**MRS. ALEXANDER MITCHELL, Wisconsin.**  
**MRS. LETITIA H. WALKER, North Carolina.**  
**MRS. MARY T. BARNES, Washington, District of Columbia.**  
**MRS. MARGARET J. M. SWEAT, Maine.**  
**MRS. S. E. JOHNSON HUDSON, Connecticut.**  
**MRS. EMMA R. BALL, Virginia.**  
**MISS ALICE M. LONGFELLOW, Massachusetts.**  
**MRS. JENNIE MEEKER WARD, Kansas.**  
**MRS. IDA A. RICHARDSON, Louisiana.**  
**MRS. ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Michigan.**  
**MRS. MARY T. LEITER, Illinois.**  
**MRS. ALICE H. HILL, Colorado.**  
**MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, Delaware.**  
**MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST, California.**  
**MRS. REBECCA B. FLANDRAU, Minnesota.**  
**MRS. A. R. WINDER, New Hampshire.**  
**MRS. FANNIE GILCHRIST BAKER, Florida.**  
**MRS. JOSEPH J. WILDER, Georgia.**  
**MRS. GEORGE R. GOLDSBOROUGH, Maryland.**  
**MRS. FRANCIS S. CONOVER, New Jersey.**  
**MRS. BENJAMIN GRAHAM, Missouri.**  
**MRS. THOMAS SHAPARD WEBB, Tennessee.**  
**MRS. WM. AMES, Rhode Island.**  
**MISS AMY TOWNSEND, New York.**

MRS. CHARLES C. HARRISON, Pennsylvania.  
 MRS. THOMAS S. MAXEY, Texas.  
 MRS. JAMES E. CAMPBELL, Ohio.  
 MRS. R. D. JOHNSTON, Alabama.  
 MRS. C. F. MANDERSON, Nebraska.  
 MRS. EUGENE VAN RENSSELAER, West Virginia.

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*Secretary.*

MRS. JENNIE MEEKER WARD.....Ottawa, Kan.

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*Treasurer.*

MR. E. FRANCIS RIGGS .....Washington, D. C.

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*Resident Superintendent.*

MR. HARRISON H. DODGE .....Mt. Vernon-on-Potomac, Va.

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*Resident Assistant Superintendent.*

MR. JAMES YOUNG.....Mt. Vernon on-Potomac, Va.

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*Advisory Committee.*

CHIEF-JUSTICE FULLER, U. S. Supreme Court, Washington, D. C.  
 MR. JAMES CARTER.....277 Lexington Ave., New York City.  
 HON. THOS. M. McCARTER.....Newark, N. J.

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.**

**HELD AT**  
**Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, Virginia.**

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**May, 1901.**

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**Present:**

**MRS. J. V. R. TOWNSEND, Regent.**  
**MRS. WALKER, Vice-Regent for North Carolina.**  
**MRS. HUDSON, Vice-Regent for Connecticut.**  
**MRS. BALL, Vice-Regent for Virginia.**  
**MRS. WARD, Vice-Regent for Kansas.**  
**MRS. RICHARDSON, Vice-Regent for Louisiana.**  
**MRS. RATHBONE, Vice-Regent for Michigan.**  
**MRS. LEITER, Vice-Regent for Illinois.**  
**MISS COMEGYS, Vice-Regent for Delaware.**  
**MRS. FLANDRAU, Vice-Regent for Minnesota.**  
**MRS. WINDER, Vice-Regent for New Hampshire.**  
**MRS. GRAHAM, Vice-Regent for Missouri.**  
**MRS. AMES, Vice-Regent for Rhode Island.**  
**MRS. HARRISON, Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania.**  
**MRS. JOHNSTON, Vice-Regent for Alabama.**  
**MRS. VAN RENSSELAER, Vice-Regent for West Virginia.**

The Annual Statement of the work of the Mount Vernon Association is again offered to the public through the reports of its officers and committees, as given to the Council of May 1901.

## REGENT'S REPORT FOR 1900—1901.

DEAR LADIES:—In entering upon a new century, it seems a fitting time to cast a look back upon the past and to trace hurriedly the growth of the little seed planted in 1854.

One single lady, Miss Pamela Cunningham, of South Carolina, projected a gigantic work in the purchase and restoration of this historic spot, Mount Vernon, where had lived and died the greatest man of our country, with no superior as a fully rounded character in any part of the world.

Miss Cunningham, with an enthusiasm and an abiding faith, began this work in 1853. The struggles and vicissitudes were great; yet fearlessly, with her wisely chosen band of ladies, she labored onward until the goal was won. Mount Vernon was the property of the women of America.

Then came the need of more work for its maintenance year by year. Success followed, and ten years ago, with a large number of visitors, 35,514, we considered ourselves at the zenith of our glory! But at the beginning of the first year of the twentieth century our number has risen to more than double that figure—viz., 85,829. God has surely been with us, and made His face to shine upon us, and to Him we owe our song of praise and thanksgiving.

To-day we meet here at this Council, ready to render an account of our duties fulfilled and to undertake new ones for the future.

We meet as an unbroken circle, though the Angel of Death has visited the homes of some of us. Our dear sisters of Georgia and of New Jersey have been sorely tried in the loss of the heads of their families. Others too have suffered, and to all we tender loving sympathy in their sorrow.

The various points left in the hands of the Regent have, with the assistance of the Superintendent, been carried out in accordance with the general views of the Council. The Grounds and Shrubs Committee desired that an expert landscape gardener be engaged to visit Mount Vernon, in order to

examine our trees, give instructions as to their treatment, and decide upon the new trees to be planted to replace those which were destroyed by frost, and others by the blizzard of 1899. Mr. W. R. Smith, Superintendent of the National Botanical Garden in Washington, was therefore invited to Mount Vernon in October, and he discussed this question with our Superintendent, who will in his report give an account of the visit. During the winter I was not able to pay my usual visit to Mount Vernon, but in March I found everything in good condition. The roads and gutters had been repaired according to the suggestions of Council, the surroundings of the Tomb were improved, and everywhere the fine appearance of the grass seemed to promise the reward of our generous outlay of fertilizers, several boatloads of manure which had been used upon the lawns and wherever it was deemed necessary. In the spring I wrote to Mr. Charles E. Sargent, who is at the head of arboriculture in our country, and begged him to visit Mount Vernon. He regretted that he could not come then, as he was about starting for the southwestern part of the country. He was again asked to come at the time of the Council, upon his return from the South, and again he was unable to arrange a visit; but in the autumn, at the proper time, he has promised to come here and make a careful study of our trees with the Superintendent.

On June 11th the Princess Aribert, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria, visited Mount Vernon; coming with Secretary Hay as the guest of our Government, and accompanied by Lord and Lady Pauncefote and a large party of diplomats. Our democratic and law-abiding Secretary insisted upon paying the entrance fees of the party, although our Superintendent assured him that the ladies of Mount Vernon would wish to enjoy the honor of having the Princess as their guest. The Secretary, however, paid no heed to such logic and persevered in his determination to adhere to his own ideas of right. The Princess expressed much interest and pleasure in her visit

and commented most favorably on the beauty of the place, saying that America owed a great debt to the devoted ladies who had preserved this historic spot to their country.

On May 30th, Decoration Day, President McKinley, following his usual custom, sent a handsome wreath for the Tomb, which was beautifully decorated on that occasion.

On the anniversary of Washington's death, December 14th, the Tomb was appropriately hung with evergreens, garlands and wreaths, and three delegates from the Masonic Lodges of Fredericksburg and Alexandria were allowed to place upon the sarcophagus the wreaths they had brought for that purpose, accompanying the act with prayer. During the period of inauguration week, 8,000 visitors came to Mount Vernon, increasing our revenue by two thousand dollars.

As we have been at much trouble and expense during the past few years in taking many precautions for the prevention and extinguishing of fire, and as we feel that the Mansion is far more safe from that danger than ever before, the Regent considered it only right that there should be some reduction in our insurance premium. The agents for Wise & Company of Alexandria, were invited to inspect our arrangements. They came down here while Council was in session and the improvements were carefully pointed out to them. The only reduction we have been able to secure, however, is that of about fifty dollars, the amount paid in July, 1900, for the three years in advance, being \$350.50 as against \$397.64 paid in 1897.

Again we are indebted to Mrs. Hearst, our Vice-Regent for California, for the generous gift of \$2,500 for the construction of the Sea-wall. That important work is now almost entirely completed and the Potomac is effectually prevented from carrying off any more of our precious estate. We have received during the past year the annual gift of two flags from our faithful friend of so many years, Mrs. McFadden, of New York, and several additions to our library: a Memoir of

Mrs. Dillon, late Vice-Regent for Iowa, sent by Mr. Dillon, her husband; a French Dictionary in two volumes, sent by Mr. L. J. Davis through the Vice-Regent for the District of Columbia; two volumes of Vertot's History of Rome, date 1724; a small monograph, entitled "Some Account of the Gibbs-Channing Portrait of Washington," written by Mr. Samuel P. Avery and presented by him.

The steamboat stopped running on January 22d, and we took advantage of that time to make some necessary repairs; it began its usual trips again in the latter part of February.

Of our Superintendent, always the same report: faithfulness in each and every department, conscientious discharge of duty, foresight and prudence in managing the crowds of visitors so that no one part of the Mansion should be overcharged with undue weight. By some oversight, at the last Council, we forgot the strong reasons we had for making some honorable mention of the tremendous work Mr. Dodge had so admirably accomplished: the heating plant, the enlargement of the Deer Park, and the oft-repeated and discouraging attempts (though finally crowned with success) to obtain water in the Artesian Well.

The Assistant Superintendent is, as usual, attentive to all his duties, and during the holiday of the Superintendent carried out faithfully all the work devolving upon him, taking his own vacation by preference in the autumn. Our Gardener, Mr. Whelan, has always a fine show of fruit and flowers, and this year it is as beautiful as ever, although the extreme heat of last summer made it very difficult to keep the plants from withering away. He will ask in his report, I suppose, the disposition to be made of his magnificent palms. In winter they are too crowded, and being such beautiful ornaments to our grounds in spring, summer and autumn, it would seem that the glass roof of their house might be raised, to give them more space. This matter, however, brought to



my attention during the early spring, is the work of the Garden Committee.

All the employees do good and conscientious work; all is harmony upon the place, peace and good-will. With which pleasant comment I conclude my report, adding all good wishes to our dear circle of Mount Vernon sisters and the hope that our dear Father above may preserve and strengthen us in all good work and grant us His blessing in the future as He has done in the past.

Ever affectionately yours, *Justine V. R. Townsend.*

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

April 30, 1901.

*To the Regent and Vice-Regents of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association:*

LADIES,—My report for the fiscal year ending April 30 will place before you the many details of incidents and work which have engaged my attention since your last annual meeting.

It has been a year of prosperity for Mount Vernon, as the increase in number of visitors will show; and while perhaps the achievements may seem trivial as compared with the previous year, yet in the aggregate I trust you will find that much of importance has been accomplished.

Guided by the instructions received from the several committees, and supplemented by the direction and authorization of the Regent, the various branches of endeavor have been carried through more or less successfully.

The "wear and tear" incidental to the constantly increasing throng of visitors was in a measure reduced by covering the stairs in the Mansion with corrugated rubber, and when especially heavy travel was expected—as after March 4th—the passages of entrance and exit were railed off, the floor covered, and the outside stone steps boarded over.

I would advise additional precautions of this general character, having in view particularly the protection of the soft sandstone paving of the East Portico—the original tiles imported by General Washington (1786). It is only a question of how much longer they can resist the severe effect of so much travel before they be permanently covered or entirely replaced.

#### *Sea-Wall.*

The breaking and undermining of our river shore has been prevented by an extension of the Sea-wall. Under the repeated donation of the Vice-Regent for California, nearly 600 feet of solid stone masonry was added to what had been built through her generosity in former years. Now 1794 feet of the river front is protected, and there remains but a short stretch of 300 feet near the Wharf, which it is planned to build this year. To entirely complete this valuable improvement as contemplated, a suitable coping will be required for 1432 feet of the wall.

#### *Cobblestone Gutters.*

The old cobblestone gutter draining the walk from Tomb to River, a distance of 450 feet, was taken up and relaid. To prevent destructive lodgment of grass and vine roots in this and some of the other gutters, gas tar was applied. The tar soaks into the crevices and binds the sand, as a cement, to hold the stone firmly against the action of water. 600 feet of new-laid cobblestone gutter drains the roadway leading to the Railroad Gate. The water from these surface drains is carried away through terra-cotta pipes, which also drain the roofs of the Gatekeepers' Lodges.

The stretch of gutter below the Barn should be relaid. This was recommended last year, but not thought essential by the Council. Here I experimented with a preparation recommended to prevent the growth of grass and weeds among the stones. It was not entirely successful.

*Railroad Gate.*

The tedious process of grading the lane leading to the Entrance Gate built by Texas was finally concluded. Relaying the stone flagging, sodding the banks and rebuilding the fences followed. It is quite essential that something in the way of durable material be chosen to surface this approach.

The Gateway has been improved by a paving of asphaltum blocks, and near each of the flanking Lodges lilac shrubs were set out. The plan for a hedge on each side of this approach is only deferred. The stock of rooted privet at my disposal last autumn was only enough for the line below the Barn.

*Deer Park.*

The extension of the Deer Park, authorized by Council, was accomplished within the limits of the appropriation. It takes in the hill east of the Main Park, ground rendered unfit for farming by the land-slides a few years ago; but, being overgrown by bushes, weeds and vines, it affords about eight acres of excellent browsing for the deer. To enclose this tract I selected Page woven wire fencing for the hillsides, and for the river front utilized the wooden stockade formerly dividing the two Parks.

*Guard-Rails.*

Bordering the carriage road midway between the Tomb and the Wharf, we constructed a substantial rustic guard-rail of cedar and locust. This should relieve any fear of accident to vehicles where the embankment is so steep and dangerous.

*Grounds.*

On the bare hillside above this portion of the road sods of honeysuckle were laid in trenches of prepared soil, and, when well rooted, should speedily cover this barren and unsightly spot.

In front of the Tomb the brick paving was extended, drains relaid, and sodding renewed. About the base of the

two marble shafts myrtle was tried where grass will not grow. Inside the brick enclosure of the Tomb the soil was enriched and ivy planted, the purpose being to induce a growth to cover the bare brick walls. Wisteria and climbing roses were added.

A privet hedge was set out bordering the carriage road below the Barn a distance of 262 feet. Native evergreens were planted to screen out-buildings.

Grass and clover were sown where turf was winter-killed, and sod laid where we could cover the spaces worn by travel.

The ornamental shrubs were trimmed and dead branches cut from trees.

Two English yews were obtained from the Government for the Flower Garden.

Mr. Sargent has promised to visit Mount Vernon this summer to advise as to treatment of trees.

#### *Coachman's Cabin.*

A very much needed addition of two rooms to the Cabin occupied by the Coachman and his family was made by our regular employees.

Following are briefly mentioned other objects to which their labor was directed. Strengthening the boundary fences of the estate, repairing the foundation of Summer-house and Cement-house, rebuilding stages of Green-house, repairing doors, locks, ventilators, support of radiators, paving the aisles of the Palm-house, glazing and painting hot-bed sash, a new floor and other repairs in the Lodge at the West Gate, cementing stone steps of Mansion, cellar steps, and brick steps of Old Tomb; the pavement and steps at the Wharf also had attention.

All the eave gutters were repaired and painted, likewise the metal roofs of East Portico, Colonnades, Tomb, Wagon-shed, Hay-barracks and Cow-shed in barn-yard. The Pump-house over the Artesian Well was enlarged; the steam engine, chemical engine and hose received the customary overhauling.

Shingle roofs were patched, fences and gates repaired; whitewash, colorwash, calcimine and paint applied where needed—for example, to the garden fences, trellises, Seed-houses, balustrade of East Portico and Library Porch, the doors and woodwork in Quarters and Kitchen, the interiors of the Coachman's Cabin, the Butler's House and necessities.

The coach and farm wagon were repaired and painted, the mowing machines and other implements put in order. The porch chairs and wire screens for windows and doors were protected against weather; windows were glazed, signs and labels prepared for the direction of visitors. Much of the old furniture was made more serviceable and missing parts of the gilt mirror and brackets were cleverly supplied.

The foregoing will give some idea of how we utilize the few hours when off guard duty.

In addition, the care of the lawns, walks, roads and gardens requires a good deal of time and attention.

The wells of West Lodge and Coachman's Cabin were cleaned.

Laborers mowed the rank growth from swamp, dredged the swamp ditches, cleared the entire fence line, cut and burned brush, grubbed stumps, set fence-posts, cut fallen timber, graded for and laid cobblestone gutters.

The liberal enrichment of the lawns by the stable compost obtained from the city stimulated the old turf wonderfully. Using a suitable sharp harrow, the surface was loosened and the beneficial effect of the compost increased.

### *Kitchen Garden.*

Several choice varieties of strawberries were set out in the Kitchen Garden; also thyme, sage, spearmint, hollyhocks, etc., to give this feature an old-fashioned look. The usual vegetables for the table are grown too—viz., corn, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, peas, radishes, lettuce, asparagus, etc.

The raspberries, gooseberries, currants, grapes and young fruit trees were mulched and pruned at the proper time. The fig bushes were protected during the winter by bending down the branches and covering them well with earth. Now released from their shelter, they are found to be in good condition to bear fruit this season.

After much difficulty, I obtained white gravel for the walk entering the Kitchen Garden. The big box bushes are trimmed with a view to forming, in time, an arch at the Gateway.

#### *Farm.*

This branch of our work, I regret to say, has not given very satisfactory results the past season, owing to the hottest summer and driest winter known in this section for many years. Of hay we made 27 tons, and oats 320 bushels off nine acres—which was not so bad; but the corn crop was literally burned up, thirteen acres yielding only 46 barrels. The late seeding of crimson clover and timothy was badly damaged during the winter.

Ten acres on the river hillside and three acres below the Barn (in corn last summer) are now in oats. The field back near the woods, about nine acres, is being prepared for corn.

#### *Live Stock.*

We have five horses, six cows, two heifers, one bull and twenty-two deer.

Just after Council last year the Guernsey bull died. Examination by a skilled veterinarian ascribed tuberculosis as the cause, whereupon I had the tuberculine test applied to each of the herd, and was much relieved when they were pronounced free of disease. A young bull of approved breeding was selected from a noted Guernsey herd in New York State to replace the one lost.

For a park at Yonkers, New York, I sold a pair of our deer for \$50.00.

The teams were fully occupied with plowing, hauling wood, coal, manure, building material, and the regular coach service.

#### *Coal.*

By a fortunate circumstance I secured the winter supply of coal in August, just before the great advance in price occurred. By arranging for car lots direct from the mines, it was delivered here at the following rates: furnace coal, \$5.05 per ton; stove coal, \$5.45 per ton.

We had to haul it from the railroad station outside our gate to the boiler-room. Owing to the mildness of last winter, the consumption of coal was greatly reduced, and we have probably thirty tons left over.

#### *Ice.*

In February a short spell of freezing weather gave the only chance we had to cut ice. This I was prompt to take advantage of, but secured only a partial crop before the thaw which quickly followed.

#### *Boat.*

Taking advantage of a threatened stoppage of navigation by ice, the steamboat *Macalester* was withdrawn from service January 22d. After careful repairs, the regular trips were resumed February 20th. While the boat was laid off, the Steamboat Company arranged with the Electric Railway for the free transportation of Mount Vernon employees.

To meet the rush of visitors after the President's inauguration, an extra boat was put on and additional trains run. By authorization of the Regent, the gates were opened March 5th and 6th at 10 o'clock A. M., and closed at 5 P. M., thus giving opportunity to scatter the crowds instead of massing them in the shorter interval. The force of extra Guards was reduced as the travel decreased.

The other occasions during the year when pilgrims were more numerous than usual were in May, 1900, when the

Mystic Shriners came, and in February, 1901, when the Daughters of the American Revolution held their convention in Washington.

Special parties of note I might mention were:

June 5. Princess Aribert, accompanied by Secretary Hay, Lord Pauncefote, and the diplomatic corps.

January 15. Miss Helen Gould, brought by Admiral Terry and a semi-official party.

———. An excursion in honor of the Commissioners to the Paris Exposition and foreign guests.

April 11. The French Ambassador brought officers and cadets of the French Navy visiting this country,

#### *Tomb.*

The stated occasions for decorating the Tomb were duly observed.

The President sent a handsome wreath May 30th.

December 14th memorial wreaths were brought by delegates from Masonic Lodges at Fredericksburg and Alexandria.

February 22d the children of the American Revolution presented an evergreen tribute from Valley Forge.

April 11th a beautiful floral offering was made by the French officers.

The flag was lowered to half-mast when all nations showed this mark of respect for Queen Victoria, and later we similarly observed the announcement of President Harrison's death.

#### *Gifts.*

The gifts I have to mention were a French and English Dictionary, once owned by Judge Bushrod Washington, presented by Mr. L. J. Davis, of Washington, through the Vice-Regent for the District of Columbia.

Memoir of Mrs. Dillon, Vice-Regent for Iowa, sent by her husband.

Some Account of the Gibbs-Channing Portrait of George Washington, by Samuel P. Avery, of New York.



Virtot's History of Rome (1724), presented by Mr. William Smith, of the United States Botanic Garden; also chrysanthemums by the same gentleman.

From Miss McFadden, of New York, her annual gift of two new flags for Mount Vernon.

From Mr. Evans Rogers Dick, of Philadelphia, a cash donation of \$10.00.

#### *Guide-Books.*

The third edition of the Mount Vernon Guide-Book, recently published, embraces the several corrections and additions directed by the Council.

#### *Insurance.*

New policies of insurance, covering three years, were arranged for June 20, 1900, at rates slightly lower than for the previous term. I append a statement showing how the insurance on the property is now placed.

The accompanying financial statement accounts for funds of record on my books for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1901.

In offering my usual commendation of the employees, I regret having to announce the death, on March 5th, of the old servant Richard Broadus, whose paralysis retired him from active duty six years ago.

Mr. Harrison B. Hudson, one of the Guards, has been granted a furlough on account of broken health. His place is temporarily filled by Mr. Charles H. Kaus.

In conclusion, I beg permission to express for myself and all the Mount Vernon employees the most sincere sympathy for the Regent and Vice-Regents who have suffered so severely from afflictions since last Council.

Thanking the ladies for a continuation of their marked consideration and kindness, I have the honor to be,

*Harrison H. Dodge,*  
Resident Secretary and Superintendent.

## REVENUE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 1901.

Flowers .....	\$ 707.05
Mount Vernon views.....	1,255.68
Guide-books.....	1,266.80
Milk .....	609.04
Butter.....	88.80
Coach fares.....	159.65
Horse sold.....	20.00
Telephone rebate.....	4.88
Canes .....	29.25
Mount Vernon literature.....	27.75
Lamp oil.....	7.15
Old material.....	17.15
Calves.....	35.00
Deer .....	50.00
Ice .....	4.00
Small fruits .....	8 25
Coal.....	16 65
Cash donation.....	10 00
Cincinnati gas dividend.....	25.00
Donation from Vice-Regent for California.....	2,500.00
Donation from Vice-Regent for Maryland .....	224.29
Donation from Vice-Regent for Maine.. ..	45.00
Donation from Vice-Regent for New Jersey.....	100.00
Donation from Mr. Charles C. Harrison.....	50.00
Donation from Major T. S. Webb.....	100.00
Wharf entrances, 114, at 25 cents. ....	28.50
Visitors by boat, 28,707, at 25 cents.....	7,176.75
Visitors by railway, 57,008, at 25 cents.....	14,252.00
Boat privileges .....	99.96
Total .....	\$28,908.05

EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
APRIL 30, 1901.

Council expenses .....	\$ 480.29
Gratuity to servants.....	50.00
Regular pay-roll.....	10,980 00
Day laborers.....	891.54
Pension to Richard Broadus.....	286.00
Sea-wall extension.....	2,463.68

Deer Park extension .....	148 83
Improvement to grounds.....	582.15
Repairs to Mansion. ....	68.58
Repairs to Coachman's Cabin.....	57.99
Repairs to Summer-house.....	21 17
Repairs to heating apparatus.....	86.68
Repairs to coach.....	15.00
Miscellaneous repairs.....	246.47
Stationery.....	18.75
Mill feed.....	170.50
Farm expenses. . . . .	305.44
Incidental expenses .....	60.52
Household expenses.....	27.79
Mount Vernon views.....	312.11
Guide-books.....	760.45
Stock plants for Green-house .....	138.96
Paving at Tomb.....	43.10
Ice .....	25 75
Guernsey bull .....	50.00
Iron bedsteads.....	48.10
Memoirs of Washington.....	12 50
Telephone.....	175.00
Insurance .....	350.50
Coal.....	665 94
Uniforms for Guards.....	123.50
Extra Guards.....	110 50
Total. ....	<u>\$19,717.79</u>

## STATE REPORTS.

### CALIFORNIA STATE REPORT.

PLEASANTON, CAL., May 6, 1901.

Construction of the Sea-wall during the summer of 1900 was continued a distance of 512 feet—the proposed limit eastward—and 98 feet of the old riprap wall near the Wharf was replaced by solid masonry, but not to the full height. It is proposed to complete this portion and a stretch of 250 feet next the Wharf this season. For the work last year \$2,463.68 was expended.

Respectfully submitted,

*Phæbe A. Hearst,*  
Vice-Regent for California.

## COLORADO.

(No State Report.)

The Vice-Regent from Colorado writes from Rome, Italy, where she is sojourning for her health, that she regrets not being at Council and sends greeting to all the ladies and hopes next year to be with them.

*Alice H. Hill.*

## CONNECTICUT STATE REPORT.

Having passed the winter in Europe, my efforts in behalf of Mount Vernon were entirely among the Americans there, who are but little informed as to the work of our Association. Our Report supplied statistical information and some interest was aroused. On the 22d of February, Mrs. H. W. Shelton, of New York, most patriotically gave us her villa at Nice for some commemoration of the day. It was decided to give a large luncheon. Under Mrs. Shelton's tasteful guidance the rooms and table were beautifully decorated with flags and flowers of red, white and blue. Our Church, our Navy and Army were worthily represented, and our countrymen, residents or sojourners in Nice, some of them bearing historic Italian titles, lent that charm to the function which seems to be their national gift.

"The Memory of Washington" was drunk standing, in silence. "Mount Vernon and Its Faithful Custodians" was offered and responded to.

The success was complete and we will hope may cause a lasting interest in Mount Vernon. Strange to say, this was the only celebration of the day in Nice. Though a strictly private affair, the local paper gave it publicity in a very pleasing notice.

I have provided new rugs and a set of toilet china for the Connecticut State Room.

Respectfully submitted. *Susan E. Johnson Hudson,*

Vice-Regent for Connecticut.

## DELAWARE STATE REPORT.

I have the honor and gratification to report a gift of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), through the Daughters of the American Revolution, as a memorial to my mother — Margaret A. Comegys, the first Vice-Regent for Delaware—in recognition of her services as one of the original Vice-Regents through whose efforts the purchase of Mount Vernon was made and the place preserved in good condition and maintained as neutral ground during the Civil War. It is deemed appropriate that the interest of this amount shall be used towards keeping the Delaware Room in order.

Respectfully submitted. *Harriet Clayton Comegys,*  
Vice-Regent for Delaware.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for the District of Columbia has been prevented by ill health from making any active exertions in behalf of Mount Vernon. She will send during Council a quaint little pitcher (the gift to her of Miss Julia Lee) with the picture on it of Christ Church, Alexandria, Va., where Washington worshiped and where he had a pew at the time of his death; the subject of the decoration makes it suitable and worthy of a place at Mount Vernon.

*Mary T. Barnes,*  
Vice-Regent for the District of Columbia.

## FLORIDA STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Florida telegraphs that her home is in ashes from the recent fire in Jacksonville, and extends greetings to Council and regrets at not being able to attend.

## GEORGIA.

(No State Report.)

## ILLINOIS STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent reports from Illinois a contribution of \$50.00 from L. Z. Leiter, to be expended for trees and

shrubs; \$6.00 from the school-children of Chicago; and several photographs for the library, of Sulgrave, the ancestral home of the Washington family—Sulgrave, Northampshire, England.

#### KANSAS STATE REPORT.

Mrs. Leeper, of Iola, Kansas, sent her annual donation of one dollar to Mount Vernon.

Reports were sent to the Historical Society and a large number were distributed throughout the State. Additional improvements were made in the Kansas Room.

*Jennie M. Ward,*  
Vice-Regent for Kansas.

#### LOUISIANA STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Louisiana has to report that, as usual for a number of years, she has on the 22d of February presented to the public school children in New Orleans 2,000 copies of Andrew Reed's "Memorial to Washington." Each public school now owns a photogravure of Gilbert Stuart's "Washington."

Learning from Mr. Dodge that there was a desk once the property of Mrs. Washington that could be purchased from the great-granddaughters of Nellie Custis, after some correspondence with Mrs. Hodges, I paid her fifty dollars for it, and I now present it to Mount Vernon to be placed in the Virginia Room, where I presume it was used. The following is the history of the relic: It was the property of Mrs. Washington, who gave it to her granddaughter, Eleanor Parke Custis (Mrs. Lawrence Lewis), who bequeathed it to her daughter, Frances Parke Lewis, who married Edward G. W. Butler, who left it to her daughter, Isabel Butler, who became Mrs. George Williamson, whose daughter, Isabel Butler Williamson, is now Mrs. Arthur Hodges, from whom it was purchased.

I also present *fac-similes* of letters from George Washington to Sir John Sinclair, Bart., M P., which were by Mr.

Isaac E. Morse, our representative in Congress (the husband of Louisiana's first Vice-Regent), presented to Georgine Luzenburg on her seventeenth birthday, and now given to Mount Vernon by her daughter, Mrs. Mary L. Schaffter.

*Ida A. Richardson,*  
Vice-Regent for Louisiana.

#### MAINE STATE REPORT.

LONDON, May.

*To the Ladies in Council:*

MY DEAR LADIES,—My prolonged stay on this side of the Atlantic deprives me of the pleasure of meeting you at Mount Vernon. I have been so long absent from Councils that I feel like sending my word of greeting to you all. Wishing for the best of weather and the happiest of results for the Council, I remain,

Most cordially yours,

*Margaret J. M. Sweat,*  
Vice-Regent for Maine.

#### MARYLAND STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Maryland reports having received:

Donations .....	\$14.55
Annual penny contribution on Washington's birthday from little school-boys near Ellicott City .....	.45
	<hr/>
	\$15.00

*E. A. Goldsborough,*  
Vice-Regent for Maryland.

#### MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPORT.

Regret not having any work to report this year. I endeavored to keep the interest in Mount Vernon alive by reading to societies a paper on Mount Vernon and have collected a small amount of money.

Boston Tea Party Chapter, D. A. R.....	\$10.00
Faneuil Hall Chapter, D. A. R.....	5.00
Old South Chapter, D. A. R.....	5.00
Miss C. A. Derby . . . . .	5.00
Mrs. Van Ness . . . . .	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$35.00

Respectfully submitted.

*Alice M. Longfellow,*  
Vice-Regent for Massachusetts.

#### MICHIGAN STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Michigan reports the final outcome of several years of investigation and search for Washington's state coach. The one exhibited at the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876 as Washington's coach was traced to its present owner, about three years ago, through the enterprise of our Superintendent, Mr. Dodge. The price asked at the time was \$10,000.00, which put it beyond our reach. Two years of waiting for a purchaser at that price, or possibly a doubt arising as to the ability to prove its authenticity, had so depressing an effect upon the owner that last summer he made overtures to the Vice-Regent for Michigan and offered the coach for \$2,500.00. The purchase was then seriously considered by the Regent and several of the Vice-Regents, and it only failed of consummation because a link was missing in the proof of its having belonged to George Washington. Sworn testimony was not wanting to prove that Mr. John Hare Powel, of Philadelphia, who had inherited the coach from his great-aunt, Mrs. Samuel Powel, said that the coach in question belonged to George Washington, but the sequel proved that several persons have been guilty of false swearing. Fortunately, our wise Regent and sagacious Superintendent advised further investigation before making the purchase, and we were rewarded by obtaining a communication from Mr. Robert Hare Powel, son of Mr. John Hare Powel. This letter I will read you in full. While Mr. Powel's letter shows conclusively that the coach in question never belonged to



George Washington, he also demonstrates that there is no state coach that was Washington's in existence. Mr. Powel also shows that the Powel coach was a twin brother or sister, so to speak, of the famous "White Chariot," having been made upon the same model and at the same time, and from the intimacy existing between the Washingtons and Powels the probability is great that the General occasionally rode in the Powel coach. The Powel coach can now be obtained for \$350.00, and the Vice-Regent for Michigan only waits for the sanction and concurrence of the Regent and Vice-Regents to send a check to the owner, which will consummate the purchase.

The Detroit Mount Vernon Society has had printed and presents two hundred copies to the Association of "An Historical Sketch of the Organization of the Mount Vernon Association," by its founder, Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham.

Ten dollars is appropriated to Green-house and Garden department for purchase of flowers.

Mr. Henry C. Sturges, of New York, presents through the Vice-Regent for Michigan another letter; one from the same writer on the same subject was presented two years ago from Mr. Wm. Yeaton, who built the arched brick Tomb of Washington.

Respectfully submitted.

*Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone,*  
Vice-Regent for Michigan.

#### MISSOURI STATE REPORT.

May 14, 1901.

The Vice-Regent for Missouri reports a gift of \$25.00 from the Daughters of the Revolution, St. Louis Chapter; of \$30.00 from the Sons of the Revolution; of \$50.00 a personal gift. All to be added to the Contingent Fund.

Respectfully submitted.

*Christine B. Graham,*  
Vice-Regent for Missouri.

## NEW JERSEY STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for New Jersey deeply regrets her unavoidable absence from Council this year. She takes pleasure in reporting the following contributions from the State :

Colonial Dames of Trenton.....	\$10.00
Nova Cæsarea Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution. ....	10.00
Miss Clarke, of Belvidere.....	10.00
Mount Vernon Society of Plainfield .....	17.00
Mount Vernon Society of Elizabeth .....	12.00
Princeton and other Societies .....	25.00
	<hr/>
	\$84.00

Of this sum \$50.00 is given to the Regent to use at her discretion; the remainder is held in reserve for improvements to the New Jersey Room.

*Helen F. Conover,*  
Vice-Regent for New Jersey.

## MINNESOTA STATE REPORT.

Minnesota reports a very marked increase of interest in the work of the Mount Vernon Association. Much enthusiasm is expressed by visitors from the State, upon the beauty of the spot, the exquisite care in which it is preserved, and the courtesy shown them.

The Vice-Regent has made no effort to raise money this year, but feels assured that, should it be necessary to do so for any purpose, she would meet with gratifying success.

*Rebecca B. Flandrau,*  
Vice-Regent for Minnesota.

## NEW YORK STATE REPORT.

THE ALBEMARLE, April.

The Vice-Regent for New York regrets more than she can express her absence from the Council this spring; owing to ill health, she is obliged to be away. She finds the interest of her State increasing every year. During her visit to Mount Vernon a few days ago, was much pleased to see how much had been done since last year.

Mrs. Dehon has given one hundred dollars for the preservation of old trees.

Respectfully submitted.

*Amy Townsend,*  
Vice-Regent for New York.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE REPORT.

In the report of the Vice-Regent for New Hampshire of May, 1900, she gave to Council an account of the condition of the "Sarah King Hale Fund." She at that time gained permission from Council to turn over to the Treasurer of the Mount Vernon Association whatever might remain of the fund on the final winding up of the affairs of the Cheshire Provident Institution of Keene. The Cheshire Provident Institution has recently paid its last dividend for the present, this dividend representing the sale of bonds, etc. The remaining assets of that bank being in Western lands, the probability of immediate return is remote. Therefore on the 28th of April last she turned over to the Treasurer, Mr. E. Francis Riggs, the sum of \$231.94, for which she received his acknowledgment, herewith appended.

*Abby R. Winder,*  
Vice-Regent for New Hampshire.

May 2, 1901.

*Mrs. A. R. Winder, Vice-Regent, Portsmouth, N. H.:*

DEAR MADAM,—I have received your note of April 28th, covering check or draft of the Cheshire Co. Savings Bank (Keene, N. H.), on Nat'l. Hide Leather Bank, Boston, for \$231.94, which, you tell me, represents the Sarah King Hale Fund.

I place this to credit of our Endowment Fund, assuming this to be the intention of the Regent.

Yours faithfully,  
*E. Francis Riggs,*  
Treasurer.

#### NORTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.

Am glad to report a marked growth of interest in the work of our association in North Carolina, evidenced by the constant demand for Mount Vernon literature. No collections

for Mount Vernon made during the year, as local committees made unusual demands on my time and attention.

Respectfully submitted.

*Letitia H. Walker,*  
Vice-Regent for North Carolina.

#### OHIO STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Ohio regrets that she cannot attend Council this year, and that she has not a more satisfactory report to submit.

She notes, however, in her own State an increasing interest in Mount Vernon, manifested by a number of letters and inquiries received and answered.

*Elizabeth Owens Campbell,*  
Vice-Regent for Ohio.

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania has accomplished no work in her State during the past year excepting the distributing of the Report.

A pair of old-fashioned scent-bottles have been placed in the River Room.

Mr. Chas. Custis Harrison sends his annual subscription of fifty dollars to Mt. Vernon.

*Ellen Waln Harrison,*  
Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania.

#### RHODE ISLAND STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Rhode Island has but little to report for the past year. The sum of \$50.00 was given by the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution to be expended as the Vice-Regent should think best. A second sum of \$50.00 was given for some article to be placed in the office of the Superintendent. Several meetings have been held which served to greatly increase the information and interest in Mount Vernon, which interest, having once been

awakened, the Vice-Regent is most anxious should never be allowed to die out.

Respectfully submitted.

*A. L. C. D. Ames,*  
Vice-Regent for Rhode Island.

#### TENNESSEE STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Tennessee reports:

The "Bonny Kate" Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, at Knoxville, Tenn., have contributed to the Tennessee Room at Mount Vernon one silver sugar-bowl and one silver cream-pitcher. This courteous contribution was suggested by Miss Pauline Woodruff and promoted by her and by Mrs. Isabella R. Boyd, the committee appointed by the "Bonny Kate" Chapter.

The Cumberland and Campbell Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Nashville, Tenn., contributed to the Tennessee Room one silver wafer-tray.

In consequence of severe illness, the Vice-Regent for Tennessee has made no effort toward State work in the past year, beyond the distribution of the Mount Vernon Reports.

*Mary Polk Yeatman Webb,*  
Vice-Regent for Tennessee.

#### TEXAS STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Texas regrets to report that there is still due on the Texas Gateway \$125.00. Mrs. W. H. Field, assisted by several ladies of San Antonio, gave an entertainment at the Presnall Place for the Gate fund and realized \$53.00. The Texas Society of Colonial Dames and the Thankful Hubbard Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, have generously contributed to the same fund. Misses Mona and Jeannette House have sent a handsome chest to the Texas Room. A brass candlestick, which was in use during the American Revolution, was given by Mrs. S. M. Welch. The Vice-Regent offered in San Antonio

a picture of Mount Vernon as a prize to the girl or boy under fourteen years of age who would write the best article on Washington or Mount Vernon. A large number of articles were submitted, and out of these the judges selected two, "Mount Vernon," by Miss Mary Hart, and "George Washington," by Miss Geraldine Cartwell, both of whom are members of the San Antonio High School. The papers were considered so creditable that it was decided to give a picture to each of the two young ladies named—"Mount Vernon" to Miss Mary Hart, and "Washington" to Miss Geraldine Cartwell. Miss Eleanor Brackenridge gave the picture of Washington. About one hundred Reports have been distributed.

The following is a list of contributions received since the last Council. The Vice-Regent indulges the hope that the coming year may show better results.

Respectfully submitted.

*Frances C. Maxey,*  
Vice-Regent for Texas.

#### COLLECTIONS FOR TEXAS GATE.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Walling .....	\$ 5.00
Hon. W. W. Leeke .....	5.00
Cash .....	1.00
Thankful Hubbard Chapter, D. A. R. ....	50.00
Miss Elise Gallagher .....	5.00
Mrs. Robert G. West .....	5.00
Mrs. Eugene Bremond .....	5.00
Texas Society of Colonial Dames .....	25.00
Pathfinders, Austin .....	2.25
Twentieth Century Club, Beaumont .....	3.00

*Collected by Mrs. F. E. Hunter.*

Mrs. W. H. Burges .....	\$ 1.00
Mrs. Richard Burges .....	1.00
Mrs. Feldman .....	1.00
Mrs. Wright .....	1.00
Mrs. F. E. Hunter .....	1.00
Mrs. J. Calishee .....	.25
Mrs. Kaplan .....	.25
Mrs. U. Solomon .....	.25

Miss Zork .....	.25
Dr. Walsh .....	.25
Cash .....	.50
Mrs. M. Stuart .....	.50
Mr. Quincy .....	.25
Mr. Levy .....	.25
Mrs. Wilcox .....	.50
Collected by Mrs. Hiel .....	3.75
Entertainment given by Mrs. W. H. Field...	53.00
American History Club, Austin .....	1.00
Irving Club, Lockhart .....	1.75
Hon. H. C. Carter .....	10.00

#### VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.

With the money contributed to Mount Vernon by the pupils of Virginia schools I have purchased dimity curtains for the windows of General Washington's Bedroom, and also linen for the bed. In behalf also of Virginia schools I present to Council a set of antique brass candelabra for use on table. I have distributed many Reports; and upon the invitation of the President of the National Society of Colonial Dames of Virginia I gave a talk upon "Mount Vernon of the Present" at the home of Mrs. Herbert Claiborne (President). I have applied, through Miss Mary Lee, to the Lee family, asking the loan of the Arlington Washington relics to Mount Vernon, after they shall be restored by the Government to the Lee family. I have the promise of some interesting relics, and I have gratefully received from Mrs. Richardson, Vice-Regent for Louisiana, Mrs. Washington's writing-desk, to be deposited in the Virginia Room.

Respectfully submitted.

*Emma R. Ball,*  
Vice-Regent for Virginia.

#### WISCONSIN.

(No State Report.)

Mrs. Mitchell regrets not being able to attend Council.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

### REPORT OF MANSION COMMITTEE.

The excellent condition of the Mansion speaks to you all for itself, and the Committee has but few suggestions to make.

The paving in main passage-way of Cellar should be relaid with brick, the old paving of salmon brick having crumbled.

The Superintendent has called the attention of the ladies to the rapid wearing away of the flagging of the East Portico, these stones having a special historical interest, as having been ordered by Washington, and laid under his personal direction. The Committee would suggest that careful thought be given to some means of covering partially these stones, in such a way as to protect them, and still enable them to be seen. Also that the decision of how to cover them be left until next Council.

There are no other repairs necessary of such special character as to need comment.

The addition to Coachman's Cabin and repairs to the several buildings which were recommended last year have been carried into effect.

*Rebecca B. Flandrau,*  
Acting Chairman.  
*Ellen Waln Harrison.*

### REPORT OF TOMB COMMITTEE.

After a careful inspection of both Tombs, we find them in perfect condition; no appropriation is necessary for repairs. The floral decoration of Tomb, and also flags were raised, on the appointed days.

*Letitia H. Walker,*  
Chairman.  
*Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone.*  
*Rebecca B. Flandrau.*



## REPORT OF RELIC COMMITTEE.

Your committee has carefully examined the contents of the relic cases and find all relics in place, and have left them in good order. We have also identified all relics in the Mansion.

We gratefully acknowledge the gift of Mrs. Washington's writing-desk, from the Vice-Regent for Louisiana. This desk was given to Nellie Custis by Mrs. Washington, who bequeathed it to her daughter Frances, who left it to her daughter, Isabel Butler Williamson (now Mrs. Hodges), who sold it to the Vice-Regent for Louisiana. Mrs. Richardson also bought a book of *fac-simile* letters from General Washington to Sir John Sinclair, Bart., M.P., which was presented by Mr. Isaac Morse to Georgine Luzenburg, and by her to her daughter, Mrs. Mary L. Shaffter, who presents them to Mount Vernon.

Through the Vice-Regent for District of Columbia, a French and English Dictionary once owned by Judge Bushrod Washington was presented by Mr. L. J. Davis, of Washington.

*Emma R. Ball,*  
Chairman.

*Ida A. Richardson.*

*Abby R. Winder.*

## REPORT OF GROUNDS, SHRUBS AND TREES COMMITTEE.

The special interest at the meeting of the Grounds and Shrubs Committee this morning was the visit Mr. Charles S. Sargent, of Boston, who came to consult with the ladies and Superintendent about trees, their perpetuity, and pruning. Many of the trees have shown signs of decay and weakness. and Mr. Sargent will undertake their restitution, should the ladies so desire.

The chairman reports a gift of twelve nursery trees from the United States Government.

Several of the evergreens which were planted in 1899 died the past winter; those that remain are growing and have fulfilled the purpose for which they were planted, namely, to mask the out-buildings. The trees, live oak, which were promised from Georgia and Texas to replace the trees that were sent in 1899 and which died, have not been received. The wild honeysuckle, planted to prevent the continuous washing away of the banks on either side of the driveway from the Wharf to the Tomb, has taken root and the Superintendent thinks "in one year the entire bank will be covered." There will be wild azaleas planted in the woods this year. The rustic fence is an improvement to the drive. The committee advise the planting of shrubs which were at Mount Vernon in Washington's day. The work is well done on the road from Electric Railroad to West Gate. A privet hedge will be planted on either side, not to exceed two feet in height. A new gutter from the Stable to the Tomb is needed. The cobblestone gutter from Tomb to Wharf is approved. The Council think it advisable to fill the gap in the row of cedar trees either side of the gate, which will add much to the beauty of this entrance, through which a large majority of the visitors pass.

The Regent appointed, as substitutes for the absent members of this committee, Mrs. Richardson and Miss Comegys, whose valuable services have added much to the welfare of the Association at all times.

*Mary T. Leiter.*

*Susan E. Johnson Hudson.*

*Ida A. Richardson.*

*Harriet Clayton Comegys.*

*Christine B. Graham.*

## REPORT OF FARM COMMITTEE.

Owing to the intense heat of the past summer and the winter's drought, the farm work, I regret to report, has not shown very satisfactory results.

The corn crop was almost totally destroyed, only yielding forty-six barrels from a cultivation of thirteen acres. Three hundred and twenty bushels of oats were harvested off nine acres and there was a yield of twenty-seven tons of hay. The timothy and crimson clover were seeded very late and were badly damaged during the winter. Oats have been planted on ten acres on the river hillside, and on three acres below the Barn, the latter being in corn last summer. A field of nine acres is now being prepared for corn; this tract lies near the woods.

It is most important, for the permanent improvement of the soil, that a generous supply of manure and lime be added, which will assure productiveness.

Respectfully submitted.

*Phæbe A. Hearst,*  
Vice-Regent for California.

## REPORT OF PRESS COMMITTEE.

The Press Committee supplied the *Washington Post* and the *Baltimore Sun*, daily, with authentic reports of the proceedings of the Council. The *Post* has printed these reports without additions, but has exercised the privilege, since the first day or two, of cutting and docking the reports to suit their own spaces. The *Baltimore Sun* sent its own correspondent to Mount Vernon, and the committee can not hold itself responsible for all that she reported, though she showed a disposition to conform to the ideas of the committee when they were forcibly impressed upon her.

During the interval of Council, an opportunity came of correcting an erroneous statement which was published in one of the popular magazines which had an illustrated article upon the centennial of Washington's burial. The misstate-

ment was to the effect that Mount Vernon was owned by the general Government. The editor very kindly published the letter written to him by a member of the committee, which furnished the facts of the organization of the Association by its founder, Miss Cunningham. An article has been prepared upon Mount Vernon for the Woman's Edition of the Charleston (S. C.) *Courier*, to be published the latter part of May. The committee avails itself of every opportunity that comes of giving the public correct information concerning Mount Vernon and the Association.

*Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone.*

*Emma R. Ball.*

#### REPORT ON GUIDE-BOOK OF JANUARY, 1900.

A new Guide-Book with several additions of interest has been received and accepted.

*A. R. Winder,*

Vice-Regent for New Hampshire,

Acting for Committee.

#### REPORT OF GARDEN AND GREEN-HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Your committee has examined the work ordered done at last Council. The retubbing of the palms and the planting of the Rose Garden on the lot adjacent to the Spinning-house, and find it satisfactory. The box hedges, which are the most interesting feature of the garden, should be guarded from possible injury in the future by the removal of all the plants inside the borders of the Maze, excepting the ones which were there in Washington's day. It is deemed advisable and appropriate to lay a brick pavement in place of the board walks. The acting chairman has consulted Mrs. Barnes, who is absent on account of illness, and is pleased to report her acquiescence in these suggestions.

*Mary T. Leiter.*

*Harriet C. Comegys.*

## REPORT OF RECORD COMMITTEE.

The Vice-Regent for Virginia has placed in the hands of your committee some important letters from Virginians in response to Miss Cunningham's first appeal, made in December, 1853. These have been filed in their proper order with our earliest records. One volume of filed letters has been added this year to those which have already been placed in the Library. They were written in 1870 by Mrs. Tiffey, the private secretary to the Regent.

Respectfully submitted. *Harriet C. Comegys,*  
Chairman.

*Susan E. Johnson Hudson.*

*Jennie M. Ward.*

## REPORT OF FURNITURE OF MANSION COMMITTEE.

Your committee has made a thorough examination of all furniture in the Mansion, as well the "Quarters," and would suggest the following changes:

In the New Jersey Room, that the bed curtains, bed valances, window curtains, and cover for both chairs and dressing-table be renewed and of white dimity; that the carpet be renewed and replaced by one like that in the Delaware Room; that the curtains in the Family Dining-room be dyed and repaired, the brass poles to be replaced by a cornice of Washington's time; new curtains for the Library, and a proper rug for the floor; the bed hangings, spread and valances of the West Virginia Room to be washed. The Chairman would respectfully ask for the sum of \$35.00 for the carpet for the Superintendent's Office.

Respectfully submitted. *A. I. C. D. Ames,*  
Chairman.

*Ellen Waln Harrison.*

*Christine B. Graham.*

*H. C. Comegys.*

*L. H. Walker.*

## REPORT OF INDEX COMMITTEE.

The Index Committee has done no work during the past year, owing to the inaccessibility of the Minutes of 1881-82-83-84. As these Minutes are to be printed the work will be continued, and in time a complete index made of the Minutes from the beginning, and the whole will be revised, arranged alphabetically, and printed.

*Rebecca B. Flandrau,*  
Chairman.

*Ida A. Richardson.*

## REPORT OF BY-LAWS COMMITTEE.

Your committee suggests that No. 10 of the By-laws on Relics be erased: "It shall be the duty of this committee to give to the Guide-book Committee a complete list of all relics at Mount Vernon, etc.," as no such instruction is any longer needed. And the following inserted: "That it shall be the duty of the Chairman, or the one acting as Chairman, to see that any relics donated or loaned or withdrawn during meeting of Council be so recorded in the Record Book of Relics."

Also No. 13: "That this committee shall be omitted and made the Committee on Press." It shall be the duty of this committee during Council to prepare as concise a statement of each day's matters of interest for the Press, such as of any relics received or purchased, of the arrival of Vice-Regents, and of any visitors of note. That in the future the By-Laws governing the Grand Council be inserted in the back of the Minutes and Reports.

*Ida A. Richardson,*  
Chairman.

*Abby R. Winder.*

*A. I. C. D. Ames.*

The Kitchen Garden is in good condition. The wall fruit is doing well, and shows signs already of bearing fruit this year. The soil of the Kitchen Garden needs enriching, and the planting of small fruit trees is suggested.

*Ellen Waln Harrison,*

Chairman.

*Harriet Clayton Comegys.*

Mr. E. Francis Riggs, Treasurer of the Association, was received by the Council, and read his financial report. He asked to be instructed as to the disposal of the Sarah King-Hale Fund, and was authorized to place it to the credit of the Endowment Fund.

May 10, 1901.

*To Mrs. J. V. R. Townsend, Regent, Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association:*

MADAM,—Herewith I submit as usual, statements of the General Account and Endowment Fund for the past year. The balance to credit of the General Account is \$17,772.75, and to the Endowment Fund \$3,982 32, as per bank-books herewith.

I now hold the property of the Association for the Endowment Fund:

BONDS, ETC.

U. S. Registered, 4%, of 1907, par value.....	\$9,300
County of Licking, Ohio, 6%, 1907 .....	5,000
Omaha School District, 5%, 1908 .....	5,000
St. Paul (Minn.) School District, 4½%, 1919 ..	5,000
Boston & Maine Railroad stock.. . . .	800
Central Ry. of Georgia, sundry securities of uncertain value.	

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\$24,600

MORTGAGE NOTES.

John Lynch, May 22, 1902, 4½% . . . . .	\$3,000
D. William Oyster, June 1, 1904, 4½%.....	2,000
Olive Risley Seward, May 2, 1903, 5%.....	5,000
M. E. & E. Mormann, April 18, 1905, 4½%.....	4,000
John F. Shea, October 18, 1903.....	4,000
Robert J. Mawhinney, April 25, 1904, 4½%.....	3,750
James Richmond, February 15, 1905, 4½% .....	5,000
Annie S. Harkness, June 12, 1903, 4½% .....	4,000
Fersinger, August 10, 1902, 4½% .....	3,500
McCarthy, October 10, 1904, 4½%.....	500

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\$59,350

Difficulties in obtaining satisfactory investments continue, and I confess my great embarrassment in this important matter.

I am, Madam, your obedient servant, *E. Francis Riggs,*  
Treasurer.

1900.		ENDOWMENT FUND,	
May 5.	Balance per Report. ....		\$6,825.84
May 21.	Donation Mrs. Graham, Missouri.....		62.88
May 21.	" Mrs. Hill, Colorado.....		12.75
June 11.	" Mrs. Townsend.....		50 00
	U. S. 4% Interest.....		872 00
	County of Licking, Ohio, Interest.....		872.00
	Omaha School District, Interest.....		250.00
	St. Paul School District, Interest.....		225.00
	Boston & Maine Railroad, Div. and Rights.....		21 88
May 21.	Mortgage paid, Craig.....		6,000.00
	" " Mawhinney.....		250.00
1901.			
April 30,	" " Stockett.....		1,000.00
	Interest on Mortgage, Craig.....		150.00
April 30,	" " Mormann.....		180.00
	" " Shea .....		180.00
	" " Stockett.....		50.14
	" " Seward.....		250.00
	" " Oyster.....		90.00
	" " Lynch .....		185.00
	" " Fersinger .....		157.50
	" " McCarthy .....		22.50
	" " Richmond.....		225.00
	" " Mawhinney.....		180.00
	" " Harkness .....		90.00
			<u>\$17,078.95</u>

1900.		INVESTMENTS.	
May 28.	Mortgage Note, Annie S. Harkness.....		\$4,000.00
	" " Robert J. Mawhinney.....		4,000.00
	Interest on same.....		23.50
	" " James Richmond.....		5,000.00
	Interest on same.....		73.18
	Balance.....		3,982.32
			<u>\$17,078.95</u>

*E. Francis Riggs,*  
Treasurer.

WASHINGTON, May 10, 1901.



### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Your committee would respectfully report a faithful examination of the Regent's Financial Statement, and of bills and vouchers for the past year, and that they find them clear, correct, and concise. Your committee has also compared the Reports of the Treasurer and of the Superintendent, including the accounts of the Purser and of the Gardener, and reports them entirely accurate and satisfactory:

Total receipts during the year .....	\$38,948.39
Total disbursements during the year.....	21,175.64
Balance.....	\$17,772.75
Endowment Fund, \$59,350.	

### APPROXIMATE ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES FOR COMING YEAR.

Pay Roll .....	\$14,140.00
Green-house heater.....	800.00
Green-house repairs.....	300.00
Paving Garden walk.....	170 00
Paving Tomb walk.....	160.00
Paving Mansion cellar.....	90.00
Barnyard fence.....	90.00
Wagon-shed.....	25.00
Hose for chemicals .....	100.00
Telephone .....	175.00
Carpet.....	35.00
Gratuity to servants.....	50.00
Pew rent to Pohick Church .....	90.00
Printing Minutes of 1881-82-83-84.....	400.00
Allowance for Memorial Committee .....	100.00
To Mr. Sargent for treatment of trees .....	1,200.00
For secretary to Regent .....	300.00
For office expenses, Secretary .....	50.00
Total .....	\$19,315.00

Respectfully submitted.

*Ida A. Richardson.*

*Emma R. Ball.*

*Letitia H. Walker.*

*Jennie M. Ward.*

*Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone.*

The Regent announced the following committees:

LIST OF COMMITTEES.

*Finance.*—Mrs. Mitchell, Chairman; Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Rathbone.

*Mansion.*—Mrs. Flandrau, Chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Goldsborough, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Ames.

*Tomb.*—Mrs. Walker, Chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Goldsborough, Mrs. Maxey.

*Relics.*—Mrs. Ball, Chairman; Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Winder, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Baker.

*Grounds and Shrubs.*—Mrs. Leiter, Chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Townsend, Mrs. Richardson.

*Farm.*—Mrs. Hearst, Chairman; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Webb.

*Press.*—Mrs. Hill, Chairman; Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Winder, Miss Longfellow.

*Library.*—Miss Longfellow, Chairman; Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Johnston.

*Garden and Green-house.*—Mrs. Mitchell, Chairman; Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Leiter, Mrs. Wilder, Miss Amy Townsend, Mrs. Maxey, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

*Records.*—Miss Comegys, Chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Ward.

*Furniture of Mansion.*—Mrs. Ames, Chairman; Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Graham, Miss Amy Townsend, Mrs. Harrison.

*Parliamentary Rules.*—Mrs. Sweat, Chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Goldsborough.

*Index.*—Mrs. Flandrau, Chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Richardson.

*By-Laws.*—Mrs. Richardson, Chairman; Mrs. Winder, Mrs. Ames.

*Kitchen Garden.*—Mrs. Harrison, Chairman; Miss Townsend, Miss Comegys.

Mrs. Leiter, Vice-Regent for Illinois, presented the following letter for consideration:

89 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, May 9, 1901.

DEAR MRS. LEITER,—I have been informed that the collection of portraits of the generals of the Revolution which I presented Mount Vernon, through you, has been added to, or is about to be, by the addition of other portraits. It is perfectly right for the managers or trustees to have every portrait which can be obtained of men connected with the Revolution, but it is not right to place them as part of the collection which is associated with my name as an authority. I gave your Association the portrait of every general of the Revolution who ever received a commission in the regular service from the Continental Congress, and whose portrait was known to exist. But one portrait since has been found, that of General Wm. Maxwell, of New Jersey, and I will eventually get a copy for you. If the portrait of some militia general or colonel be added to the collection, I will get the discredit or rather credit for being ignorant. Should the portrait of some general turn up who should rightfully belong to the collection, I feel that it should not be added directly, but what I have given as a collection should be kept as such. I write to you as the proper person to see that this matter be properly understood.

Yours very truly,

THOS. ADDIS EMMET.

Mrs. Leiter offered the following motion:

That the ladies of the Mount Vernon Association acquiesce in the request of Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet, that no additions should be made to his collection of the engravings of Continental Generals of American Revolution. The collection includes only the generals who received their commissions from the Continental Congress, and was donated through Mrs. Leiter, Vice-Regent for Illinois.

Mrs. Flandrau, from Tomb Committee, moved that the marble tablet upon which is inscribed the name of the maker and donor of the sarcophagi be placed in a less conspicuous position within the Tomb. Seconded by Mrs. Hudson, and carried.

Report of Committee on Memorial to Miss Cunningham, founder of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union:

The Ann Pamela Cunningham Memorial Committee met, and decided to make a handsome memorial volume for

the semi-centennial celebration of her work in securing possession of the Home and Tomb of Washington.

*L. H. Walker, Chairman.*

*Susan E. Johnson Hudson.*

*Harriet Clayton Comegys.*

*Emma Read Ball.*

*Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone.*

On Sunday the Regent and several of the Vice-Regents rode to Pohick Church, and attended services there.

On Wednesday, May 15, 1901, the Governor of Virginia, J. Hoge Tyler, and Hon. J. L. M. Curry, of Washington, D. C.; Judge J. B. Sener, Fredericksburg, Va.; R. L. Gardener, Pulaski City, Va.; and Capt. John A. Coke, of Richmond, came to Mount Vernon, and after visiting the grounds and gardens, returned to the Mansion, where they were met by the ladies in council and invited to luncheon. After the opening of the afternoon session, the visitors came into the Banquet Room, and one and all most kindly and earnestly commended the work of the Association, and expressed their appreciation of the care, and their gratitude for the preservation, of the Home and Tomb of Washington.

The Vice-Regent for North Carolina, Senior Vice-Regent of the Association, and one of the coworkers with Miss Cunningham, the founder, had last year called the attention of the Council to the fact that 1903 would be the fiftieth anniversary of the inception of the idea of purchasing the estate of Mount Vernon. In 1863 the first "appeal" was published to the women to become colaborers in the work of purchasing and restoring the sacred place. For twenty years she labored and toiled, through struggles and disappointments enough to deter the stoutest heart, through physical suffering and private sorrows, till the charter was obtained, title deeds were perfected and claim allowed; and Mount Vernon, dismantled, though it was, was in the possession of the women of the Union,

"to be forever held sacred to the memory of the Father of His Country." In view of this heroic work and life-long devotion, the Vice-Regent asked that a memorial to the memory of Miss Cunningham, the founder, be prepared. This was regarded as most fitting, and a committee was appointed to decide on the form it should take. This included the following Vice-Regents: Mrs. Walker, North Carolina; Mrs. Hudson, Connecticut; Mrs. Ball, Virginia; Miss Comegys, Delaware. This committee reported later that "a handsome memorial volume" should be prepared, and the Regent appointed Miss Comegys, Delaware, Mrs. Hudson, Connecticut, and Mrs. Rathbone, Michigan, a committee to prepare the volume.

Rev. Everade Meade, rector of historic old Pohick Church of which Washington was vestryman for years, appeared before the Council and stated that an effort is to be made to restore the interior of the church according to the plans drawn by General Washington. This church was thoroughly dismantled during the war; the temporary furnishings need repair and will be taken out entirely if the funds can be secured. The Mount Vernon Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution at Alexandria will commend the work to their organization, and it is to be hoped that the funds necessary will soon be secured.

In pursuance of a resolution of the Council last year, no kerosene was used in the Mansion this year. A beautiful set of candelabra, holding thirteen candles, adorned the dining-table, and was presented to the Council by Mrs. Ball, Vice-Regent for Virginia, on behalf of her State.

A resolution against smoking in the buildings and gardens was passed on account of the danger from fire. Thus the visitors, it is hoped, will help to "preserve Mount Vernon, the sacred spot, where rest the mortal remains of George Washington."

After a pleasant session, the Council adjourned Thursday, May 16, 1901, to meet the second Thursday of May, 1902.

**BY-LAWS**  
**GOVERNING THE GRAND COUNCIL**  
**OF THE**  
**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union,**  
**AS REVISED MAY 21, 1901.**

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See Minutes of 1890, page 36, and Minutes of 1895, page 56.

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The Grand Council shall be opened by reading of the Scriptures and repeating the Lord's Prayer daily while in session.

After the reading of the minutes of previous Council and the report of the Regent, a part of each day shall be devoted by the various committees to preparing their reports

The following Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Regent for the proper management and care of Mount Vernon, and shall make their reports in writing:

Committee on Records.

Committee on Library.

Committee on Relics.

Committee on Tombs.

Committee on Mansion and Out-buildings.

Committee on Press.

Committee on Grounds, Trees and Shrubs.

Committee on Finance.

Committee on By-Laws.

Committee on Furniture of Mansion.

Committee on Index of Minutes.

**Committee on Farm.**

**Committee on Kitchen Garden.**

There shall not be less than three Vice-Regents on each committee. If the chairman of any committee shall be unable to attend the Grand Council, she shall notify in time the next Vice-Regent on the list of said committee of her intended absence.

The committees shall make their reports, if possible, upon the third day of the meeting of the Grand Council, in the order in which the Regent shall call for them.

The report of the Treasurer of Mount Vernon shall be presented; it shall be carefully read and deliberated upon by full Council.

The Superintendent's report and that of the Gardener shall then follow in their order.

All important contracts shall be signed by the Regent after having been approved by the Council.

#### **COMMITTEE ON RECORDS.**

It shall be the duty of this committee to keep a written list of all the records appertaining to Mount Vernon and where deposited, and report what records of importance are in their charge.

#### **LIBRARY COMMITTEE.**

It shall be the duty of this committee, as far as possible, to procure the books and charts formerly belonging to Washington or copies of editions of the same date, a list of which is found in Lossing's "Home of Washington" and in the Guide-Book. They shall make a catalogue of all the books and a duplicate shall be given to the Committee on Records. They shall examine the shelves and see if the books and charts are kept in a proper condition. The key to the book-cases shall be placed in the iron safe in charge of the Superintendent.

**COMMITTEE ON RELICS.**

It shall be the duty of this committee to examine the cases containing relics and see if they are in proper condition and correctly labeled. A list must be kept of the relics and by whom donated or purchased, deposited among the records, and a list of the contents of each case shall always be placed in said case. The chairman of this committee shall have charge of the keys, which must be left only with the Superintendent with orders that they be kept in the iron safe, that the cases shall not be opened, nor the relics handled nor examined by any person without consent of the Regent or the chairman of this committee, except in event of some emergency involving the safety of the relics. That it shall be the duty of the chairman or the one acting as chairman to see that any relics donated or loaned or withdrawn during the meeting of Council be so recorded in the Record Book of Relics.

**COMMITTEE ON TOMB.**

It shall be the duty of this committee to thoroughly examine the Tomb and its surroundings, and report their condition, stating what repairs are necessary, with approximate estimate of cost.

**COMMITTEE ON MANSION AND BUILDINGS.**

It shall be the duty of this committee to examine the Mansion, out-buildings, cellars, etc., in detail, inspecting all repairs that were ordered by the last Council, and noting what other repairs and restorations may be necessary. A report must be made of work done and of work in their opinion necessary for the coming year, and with approximate estimate of the cost.

**COMMITTEE ON PRESS.**

It shall be the duty of this committee during Council to prepare as concise a statement of each day's matters of inter-



est for the Press, such as of relics received, of the arrival of Vice-Regents, and of any visitors of note.

#### COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS, TREES AND SHRUBS.

It shall be the duty of the committee to inspect the grounds with the Superintendent and to see if the roads, walks, drains, fences, and the grounds generally are in good condition, and whether the instructions of the previous years have been faithfully carried out. To consult with him as to what restorations are advisable, what trees and undergrowth should be removed for the better growth of others, and what trees should be planted to replace dead ones.

#### COMMITTEE ON GARDEN AND GREEN-HOUSE.

It shall be the duty of this committee to inspect the Garden and Glass-houses, to thoroughly inform themselves whether the orders given to the Gardener have been carried out; they shall examine his books and make a condensed report of the same, with a statement of requirements for the coming year, with an approximate estimate of the cost.

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

It shall be the duty of this committee to examine the books of the Superintendent in connection with the Treasurer's report; and after the actual balance in hand is ascertained, all estimates made by other committees for repairs and restorations must be given them, and it shall be the duty of the committee to see that the moneys voted by Council shall not exceed the amount on hand and the accruing income of the current year.

#### COMMITTEE ON FURNITURE OF MANSION.

It is the duty of this committee, in consultation with the Regent, to receive or reject all furniture, pictures and relics given or loaned to this Association. It is also their duty to

hand the relics to the Relic Committee, and to see to the proper placing of all furniture and pictures, having taken list of same.

#### COMMITTEE ON FARM.

That it shall be the duty of this committee to devise and bring before Council the best and most practical plan for making the farming products of Mount Vernon more remunerative, and the farm more self-supporting.

#### DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

This officer should be a man of good character and of business capacity, one who is urbane and acceptable to the visiting public, and who will see that the labors of the servants employed upon the premises are intelligently directed, and that his orders are obeyed. He should be a gentleman of experience. He should reside at Mount Vernon. He should take charge of all daily receipts at Mount Vernon and turn over the same at stated periods to the Treasurer, taking proper receipts therefor. He should inform the Regent monthly in writing of the amount necessary for paying salaries and all contingent expenses, so that the Regent may draw a check for the proper sum. He should direct all the mechanical and agricultural operations of the place, and see to the proper care of the cattle and other animals upon the estate. He should keep a vigilant eye upon the condition of the Mansion, and notify the Regent promptly of any needed repairs. As the representative of the Association during the absence of the Grand Council, he should have full authority over all the employees on the estate, and in case of any serious act of insubordination he should promptly check the same, and if necessary discharge the offenders.

This officer should at each annual meeting of the Grand Council submit a detailed report of the condition of the estate, present a schedule of all the movable property, a statement of

moneys which have passed through his hands, and from what sources received, and of matters of general interest connected with the Mansion and grounds.

He should be required to give a bond with sufficient surety for the faithful discharge of his duties.

#### DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE GARDNER.

The Gardener should reside at Mount Vernon. He should have full authority and care of the Garden and Glass-houses, and should carry out all instructions given by the Committee on Garden and Green-houses in regard to the proper planting and preservation of the Garden. He should keep an account of all expenses incurred for garden implements, and for extra help, of receipts from the sale of plants and flowers, and he should turn over all moneys at stated periods to the Superintendent. He should present a detailed statement in writing each month to the Regent, and of the receipts and expenses at the meeting of the Grand Council.

That the Regent and six Vice-Regents, or seven Vice-Regents in the absence of the Regent, shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

Any of the By-Laws may be altered, amended, or added to by a two-thirds majority of the members present at any meeting of the Grand Council after due notice has been given at a previous meeting.

(Signed) *Ida A. Richardson,*  
*Justine V. R. Townsend,*  
*Letitia H. Walker,*

Committee on Revision of By-Laws.

# **COMPLETE LIST OF ALL OFFICERS OF MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION.**

**Founder and First Regent 1853-1873.**

**MISS ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA.**

**Resigned 1873; Died 1874.**

## **1858. Vice-Regents.**

1. Mrs. Anna Cora Ogden Ritchie, resigned 1866.....Virginia
2. Mrs. Alice H. Dickinson, resigned 1859.....North Carolina
3. Mrs. Philoclea Edgeworth Eve, died 1889.... Georgia
4. Mrs. Octavia Walton Le Vert, died 1866.....Alabama
5. Mrs. Catherine A. McWillie, died 1873.....Mississippi
6. Mrs. Margaretta S. Morse, resigned 1873; died 1895 .... Louisiana
7. Mrs. Mary Rutledge Fogg, died. .... Tennessee
8. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Walton, resigned 1860.....Missouri
9. Miss Mary Morris Hamilton, died 1876..... New York
10. Mrs. Louisa Ingersoll Greenough, resigned 1865...Massachusetts
11. Mrs. Abba Isabella Little, resigned 1863..... Maine
12. Mrs. Catherine Willis Murat, died 1867.....Florida
13. Mrs. Mary Boott Goodrich, resigned 1861, app. 1857..Connecticut
14. Miss Phebe Ann Ogden, died 1867.....New Jersey
15. Mrs. Alice Key Pendleton, resigned 1863; died 1885..... Ohio
16. Mrs. Abby Wheaton Chace, died 1892..... Rhode Island
17. Mrs. Jane Maria Van Antwerp, died ..... Iowa
18. Mrs. Margaret Ann Comegys, died 1888.....Delawate
19. Mrs. Hannah Blake Farnsworth, died 1879.....Michigan
20. Mrs. Sarah King Hale, resigned 1861.....New Hampshire
21. Mrs. Martha Mitchell.....Wisconsin
22. Mrs. Rosa Vertner Johnson, died.....Kentucky

## **1859.**

23. Mrs. Elizabeth Willard Barry, died 1884.....Illinois
24. Mrs. Sarah J. Sibley, died 1869.....Minnesota
25. Mrs. Mary Pepperell Jarvis Cutts, resigned 1878.....Vermont
26. Miss Lily Lytle Macalester, died 1891 ..... Pennsylvania
27. Mrs. Magdalen G. Blanding, resigned 1883.....California
28. Mrs. Harriet V. Fitch, died 1880.....Indiana
29. Mrs. Sarah H. Johnson, died 1866.....Arkansas
30. Mrs. Anne Lucas Hunt, died 1878; app. 1860.....Missouri
31. Mrs. Letitia Harper Walker.....North Carolina

## 1860.

32. Mrs. Mary Chesnut, died 1861.....South Carolina

## 1866.

33. Mrs. Margaret J. M. Sweat..... Maine  
 34. Miss Emily L. Harper, died 1891..... Maryland  
 35. Mrs. Lucy H. Pickens, died August 1899 ..... South Carolina  
 36. Mrs. M. E. Hickman, resigned 1867..... Nevada  
 37. Mrs. M. A. Stearns, resigned 1872..... New Hampshire  
 38. Mrs. Emily R. M. Hewson, resigned 1866 ..... Ohio  
 39. Miss Ella Hutchins, resigned 1866..... Texas

## 1867.

40. Mrs. Janet M. C. Riggs, resigned 1868..... District of Columbia  
 41. Mrs. Maria Brooks, resigned 1876..... New York  
 42. Mrs. Matilda W. Emory, resigned 1873..... District of Columbia  
 43. Mrs. Nancy Wade Halsted, died 1891..... New Jersey

## 1868.

44. Mrs. Nannie C. Yulee, died 1884; app. 1868.....,..... Florida

## 1870.

45. Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson. .... Connecticut  
 46. Mrs. Betsey C. Mason, died 1873. .... Virginia  
 47. Mrs. A. P. Dillon, resigned 1874; died 1898..... Iowa  
 48. Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, died 1898..... West Virginia

## 1872.

49. Mrs. William Balfour, resigned 1875 ..... Mississippi  
 50. Mrs. Mary T. Barnes ..... District of Columbia  
 51. Mrs. David Urquhart, resigned 1876. .... Louisiana  
 52. Mrs. M. E. Maverick, resigned 1873 ..... Texas  
 53. Mrs. C. L. Scott, resigned 1877..... Arkansas

This was the last appointment of Miss Cunningham, First Regent.

## MRS. LILY L. M. BERGHMAN.

SECOND REGENT, 1874-1891.

Died 1891.

## 1874. Vice-Regents.

54. Mrs. Emma Reed Ball..... Virginia  
 55. Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, died 1883 ..... Tennessee

## 1875.

56. Mrs. Lily L. Broadwell, died 1890..... Ohio  
 57. Mrs. John P. Jones ..... Nevada

## 1876.

58. Mrs. Jennie Meeker Ward..... Kansas  
 59. Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer..... New York

## 1878.

60. Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, resigned 1880..... Virginia

## 1879.

61. Miss Alice Longfellow..... Massachusetts  
 62. Mrs. Robert Campbell, died 1882..... Missouri

## 1880.

63. Mrs. Ida A. Richardson..... Louisiana

## 1882.

64. Mrs. Ella S. Herbert, died 1884..... Alabama

## 1885.

65. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Adams Rathbone..... Michigan  
 66. Mrs. Mary T. Leiter..... Illinois  
 67. Mrs. Janet De Kay King, died 1896..... Vermont  
 68. Mrs. Eliza Woodward, died 1897..... Kentucky

## 1888.

69. Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys..... Delaware  
 70. Mrs. Fanny Gilchrist Baker..... Florida

## 1889.

71. Mrs. Alice Hill..... Colorado  
 72. Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau..... Minnesota  
 73. Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst..... California

## 1890.

74. Mrs. A. R. Winder..... New Hampshire

## 1891.

75. Mrs. Georgia Page Wilder... Georgia  
 This was the last nomination of Mrs. Lily Macalester Laughton,  
 Second Regent (Madame Berghman).

MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND,  
 THIRD REGENT.

## 1893. Vice-Regents.

76. Mrs. George R. Goldsborough..... Maryland  
 77. Mrs. J. Dundas Lippincott, died 1894..... Pennsylvania  
 78. Miss Mary Lloyd Pendleton, resigned 1897..... Ohio  
 79. Mrs. Philip Schuyler, resigned 1891..... New York  
 80. Mrs. Christine Blair Graham..... Missouri  
 81. Mrs. Frances S. Conover..... New Jersey  
 82. Mrs. Mary Polk Yeatman Webb..... Tennessee

## 1893-94.

83. Miss Leila Herbert, died 1897.....Alabama

## 1895.

84. Mrs. Robert H. Clarkson, resigned 1900..... Nebraska  
 85. Mrs. William Ames..... Rhode Island  
 86. Miss Amy Townsend..... New York

## 1896.

87. Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison ..... Pennsylvania  
 88. Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey..... Texas

## 1898.

89. Mrs. James E. Campbell..... Ohio

## 1900.

90. Mrs. R. D. Johnston..... Alabama  
 91. Mrs. C. F. Manderson..... Nebraska  
 92. Mrs. E. Van Rensselaer..... West Virginia

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1902.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association

of the Union.





# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.



1902.





**OFFICERS**  
**OF THE**  
**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.**

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**REGENT.**

**MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND,**  
New York City.  
Summer Address, Southampton, Long Island.

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**VICE REGENTS.**

**MRS. LETITIA H. WALKER, North Carolina.**  
**MRS. MARY T. BARNES, Washington, District of Columbia.**  
**MRS. MARGARET J. M. SWEAT, Maine.**  
**MRS. S. E. JOHNSON HUDSON, Connecticut.**  
**MRS. EMMA R. BALL, Virginia.**  
**MISS ALICE M. LONGFELLOW, Massachusetts.**  
**MRS. JENNIE MEEKER WARD, Kansas.**  
**MRS. IDA A. RICHARDSON, Louisiana.**  
**MRS. ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Michigan.**  
**MRS. MARY T. LEITER, Illinois.**  
**MRS. ALICE H. HILL, Colorado.**  
**MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, Delaware.**  
**MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST, California.**  
**MRS. REBECCA B. FLANDRAU, Minnesota.**  
**MRS. A. R. WINDER, New Hampshire.**  
**MRS. GEORGIA P. WILDER, Georgia.**  
**MRS. GEORGE R. GOLDSBOROUGH, Maryland.**  
**MRS. HELEN FIELD CONOVER, New Jersey.**  
**MRS. CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM, Missouri.**  
**MRS. MARY YEATMAN WEBB, Tennessee.**  
**MISS AMY TOWNSEND, New York.**  
**MRS. WILLIAM AMES, Rhode Island.**  
**MRS. CHAS. C. HARRISON, Pennsylvania.**  
**MRS. FRANCES C. MAXEY, Texas.**  
**MRS. ROBERT D. JOHNSTON, Alabama.**

AN RENSSELAER, West Virginia.  
 CAMPBELL, Ohio.  
 IANDERSON, Nebraska.  
 US PRINGLE, South Carolina.  
 F. BARRET, Kentucky.  
 DENBY, Indiana.

SECRETARY.

ER WARD . . . . . Ottawa, Kan.

TREASURER.

GS . . . . . Washington, D. C.

IDENT SUPERINTENDENT.

ODGE . . . . Mt. Vernon, on the Potomac, Va.

ISTANT SUPERINTENDENT.

. . . . . Mt. Vernon, on the Potomac, Va.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

LER . . U. S. Supreme Court, Washington, D. C.  
 . . . . . 277 Lexington Ave., New York.

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union,**  
HELD AT  
**MT. VERNON, FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA,**  
**May, 1902.**

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**PRESENT :**

**Mrs. Justine V. R. Townsend, Regent.**  
**Mrs. Walker, Vice Regent for North Carolina.**  
**Mrs. Hudson, Vice Regent for Connecticut.**  
**Mrs. Sweat, Vice Regent for Maine.**  
**Mrs. Ball, Vice Regent for Virginia.**  
**Mrs. Ward, Vice Regent for Kansas.**  
**Miss Longfellow, Vice Regent for Massachusetts.**  
**Mrs. Richardson, Vice Regent for Louisiana.**  
**Mrs. Rathbone, Vice Regent for Michigan.**  
**Miss. Comegys, Vice Regent for Delaware.**  
**Mrs. Conover, Vice Regent for New Jersey.**  
**Mrs. Graham, Vice Regent for Missouri.**  
**Mrs. Webb, Vice Regent for Tennessee.**  
**Mrs. Townsend, Vice Regent for New York.**  
**Mrs. Ames, Vice Regent for Rhode Island.**  
**Mrs. Harrison, Vice Regent for Pennsylvania.**  
**Mrs. Maxey, Vice Regent for Texas.**  
**Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Vice Regent for West Virginia.**  
**Mrs. Manderson, Vice Regent for Nebraska.**  
**Mrs. Pringle, Vice Regent for South Carolina.**  
**Mrs. Barret, Vice Regent for Kentucky.**  
**Mrs. Johnston, Vice Regent for Alabama.**  
**Mrs. Wilder, Vice Regent for Georgia.**

The Annual Report of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, having charge of the home and tomb of Washington, is again presented to the public through the reports of its officers and committees as given to the Council of May 8-17, 1902.

## THE REGENT'S REPORT.

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Since last we met in Council in this historic spot, another year has closed upon us. But it is ever with renewed delight that we look forward to this happy reunion in the home of Washington—so dear and sacred to us all.

We greet today some loved faces that have been missed from our circle during the past two years; while our hearts are made glad by strong ties of friendship and sympathy.

But alas! the angel of death has been with us, and from our midst has taken two dear ones: Mrs. Fannie G. Baker, Vice Regent of Florida, who, for a long period, was delicate in health, was always earnest in her line of work, which led her closely in the footsteps of our Savior. In the highest sense, her greatest happiness was to make others happy; and, when finally, she was called to a better land, it was but the completion of that happiness.

The second associate to leave us was Mrs. Alexander Mitchell, Vice Regent of Wisconsin, and our Dean, who, ripe in years, passed peacefully to the higher and better life to which she had long looked forward. A rich memorial of her character, her judicious mind, her kindness of heart, and her great work, will be given by her loving friend, Mrs. Sweat, who was in constant sympathy with her during many long and trying years.

And now to return to our work. I am happy to state, that in the care of our lawns and trees during the past year, vigilance and energy have never failed.

After the adjournment of Council, our secretary sent me the answer of Mr. Sargent to the resolution of Council which he declined to consider—as he must have “free hand” or he could not assist us. At the request of the secretary I replied to his letter. I recalled to his memory the purport of my first letter, asking his aid in the treatment of

several trees—a few planted by Washington, himself, and urged that he should restore them to health and vigor before it should be too late. There was no allusion to the work of beautifying or adornment of any kind, for our love of Mount Vernon and its precious trees forbade us to think of any change in the well known grounds of Washington's home. His answer was a refusal. He must have "free hand" or he would take no part in the work.

All other orders given by Council, last year, have been satisfactorily carried out.

The steamboat, Charles Macalaster, was withdrawn from service for annual repairs on January 22d, and was to have resumed its trips by February 22d; but, owing to the then high waters, it could not land at any wharf; and, as this occurred at the time of the visit of Prince Henry, of Prussia, admiral of the German navy, the boat lost a large number of visitors on the day of his visit. Its trips were not resumed until March 3d, 1902.

Last year, a grand-daughter of Queen Victoria visited Mount Vernon; this year, her grand-son, on his visit to Washington, expressed his wish to lay some flowers upon the tomb of America's great general, George Washington. At the request of the German Ambassador, de von Hollenben, I sent an invitation to his Highnesss and suite, through the commissioner appointed by Secretary Hay. The German Ambassador took charge of all invitations.

In the pressure for time of the Prince's itinerary, it was suggested to him that the trip to Mount Vernon be given up. But the Prince said "No. That is a beautiful mission." He came; and the Regent and seven Vice Regents were present to meet him—Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Leiter, Miss Comegys, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Van Rensselaer and Mrs. Rathbone.

At the tomb, he laid a superb wreath—very large and of the choicest flowers—upon the last resting place of



Washington, in the name of his brother, Kaiser Wilhelm, the Emperor of Germany. Another, equally large and beautiful, he placed at the rear of the tomb, as his own tribute, in the name of the Admiral of the German Navy.

A pretty incident occurred as he entered the gates. He saw his own photographer arranging his camera to take a picture. The Prince spoke to one of his suite, ordering that no picture be taken. At the grave of Washington, "nothing but reverence should be thought of."

The memorial to be made to the memory of Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham has been prepared, and, as it was read to me, I felt it was a tribute worthy of the grand work she accomplished. Our Vice Regent of Maine has also summarized, in few words, a memorial which I have read this spring for the first time, in the book just published by Judge Sener.

The order given at last Council to have our portraits and other pictures cleaned and restored, if necessary, has been attended to. In regard to Peale's equestrian portrait of Washington, it needed so many repairs, such as re-lining, re-touching, etc., as the paint is hardened and is dropping off, that it still remains at the gallery.

The important protection to our river front, by the sea wall, was begun in 1895, and has just been completed a few days since. The wall is of solid masonry, 2150 feet long, 6 feet high, above mean low tide. The foundation extends from 2 to 4 feet below mean low tide, according to the character of the bottom. The wall at base is 3 feet thick, and at top 2 feet. It is built of Potomac blue gneiss stone, and has a coping of Hudson River blue stone.

The sea wall is a present from Mrs. Hearst, the Vice Regent for California, and cost . . .	\$15651.78
1893, the reclaiming of the swamp land was another gift of . . .	2028.00
1891-2, the Shelter Pavilion on wharf . . .	1046.33
1896, the Hay Barracks . . .	142.85
1897-1900, for telephone line and rental . . .	1550.00

Total . . . \$20418.96

Altogether the expenditures of Mrs. Hearst exceed \$20,000.00.

I find, upon arriving here that there has been a delay in sending the stone for the coping of the sea wall, but the money statement is correct for the entire completion.

Our Superintendent has had, this year, in addition to his regular duties, the arduous work and responsibilities connected with the restoring of the trees. And I am happy to say that no one could have more conscientiously, faithfully and actively fulfilled his duties.

During his absence, in August, our Assistant carried out the plans and directions with which he was charged most faithfully, as has always been his record.

Mr. Whelan, our gardener, has been quite ill during this spring; but, at present, he seems to have resumed his usual health. The garden shows due care, and as usual, is rich in flowers.

And now, dear ladies, with apologies for this long paper, and the best wishes and earnest prayers of a loving Leader, let me urge you to follow in the footsteps of our Founder, whose grand work in preserving Mount Vernon to our country ranks our Association as foremost in all patriotic work. The day may still come when the saving of Mount Vernon may be the one great cause of safety to our nation—a nucleus around which may gather, in its love and pride of Washington—that bulwark of safety, the common sense of the people of America.

Dear ladies, can our Association do better than follow in the safe lines bequeathed to us in the last words of Ann Pamela Cunningham?

Let us read, mark and inwardly digest that safeguard which should be the motto of our association always—Conservatism, first and even unto the end—Conservatism in every thought and action connected with our sacred charge.

JUSTINE V. R. TOWNSEND.

Regent Mt. Vernon Association.

**The Farewell Address of the Founder and First Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.**

To the Council of the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association of June, 1874:

Ladies:—It was my intention as well as my duty to have met you at this time, and conformed in person to the legal requisitions accompanying a resignation so important as mine, but providence does not permit.

But in parting, I feel it due to you as to me; to the responsibilities I solemnly assumed, which were so important in their results; to those you have taken upon yourselves; to say a few words as to those responsibilities or duties laid down in the beginning of our work—not to be lightly regarded, for they were pledges to future generations as well as to ours. The minds and hearts which conceived the rescue of the home of Washington, of the completion of a worthy tribute to public integrity, private virtue, an expression of the gratitude due and felt by a country destined to act such an important part in the drama of the world, conceived it with all the reverence felt in older regions for the resting places of their honored dead, where only pious hands are permitted to be in charge, so as to have them carried down to admiring ages in the same condition as when left.

Such was the pledge made to the American heart when an appeal was made to it to save the home and tomb of Washington, the Father of his Country, from all changes, whether by law or desecration; such, to the last owner of Mount Vernon, ere he was willing to permit it to pass from his hands; such, to the legislature of his mother state, ere she gave us legal right over it; *such we are bound to keep.* Our honor is concerned, as well as our intelligence and legal obligations. The mansion and the grounds around it should be religiously guarded from changes—should be kept as Washington left them.

Ladies, the home of our Washington is in your charge. See to it that you keep it the home of Washington! Let no irreverent hands change it; no vandal hands desecrate it with the fingers of—progress! Those who go to the house in which he lived and died, wish to see in *what* he lived and died! Let one spot in this grand country of ours be saved from change! Upon you rests this duty.

When the Centennial comes, bringing with it its thousands from the ends of the earth, to whom the home of Washington will be the place of places in this country, let them see that, though we slay our forests, remove our dead, pull down our churches, remove from home to home, till the hearthstone seems to have no resting place in America; let them see that we do know how to care for the home of our hero!

Farewell!

Ladies, I return to your hands the office so long held—since December 2, 1853. Respectfully,

ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM.

June 1, 1874.

### REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Regent and the Vice Regents of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association:

LADIES:—I have the honor herewith to render an account of my stewardship for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1902.

The contemplation of the awful disasters of flood and storm which visited with havoc and distress the various sections of our country during the past twelve months gives us abundant reasons for believing that this historic property has been providentially protected.

That it shall ever be our turn to face such troubles God forbid, but lest it is otherwise decreed I have striven to be prepared by what safeguards circumstances have allowed.

#### SEA WALL.

By the completion of the solid masonry sea wall our river shore, for a distance of 2,150 feet, is now made safe to resist the often terrific force of wave wash. This important improvement was begun, as you will remember, in 1895, and from year to year has been extended until now its expected limit is attained. Upon a concrete foundation 4 feet wide and 2 to 4 feet deep, below mean low tide, the wall is built 6 feet high, 3 feet thick at base and 2 feet at top. Hudson river blue stone coping covers the wall now a distance of 975 feet, and 1175 feet of coping is already ordered to cover the balance. When this is laid the total cost will foot up \$15,651.78—all contributed by the Vice Regent for California.

#### COBBLESTONE GUTTERS.

To better the surface drainage of hills and roads, and provide easier escape of water following heavy rain storms, long stretches of the old and defective cobblestone gutters were relaid. To prevent the lodgement of grass roots

therein gas-tar was applied; and this treatment acts also in giving better bond to hold the stone in place.

#### BRICK PAVEMENTS.

Brick pavements were laid on the main walk of the flower garden and in place of the old board walk approaching the tomb. This has proven especially satisfactory to visitors in inclement weather. The passageway in cellar of mansion was repaved also with new brick.

#### TRIMMING TREES.

To prolong the life of the old trees of the estate, many of which have historic interest, required careful treatment. Efforts to secure the services of Prof. Sargent failed and I was then directed by the Regent to engage experienced climbers and proceed as best I could with this important work. Having for guide an excellent little book Prof. Sargent sent me—a treatise on pruning forest and ornamental trees, by Des Cars—the task, though tedious, was made plain and interesting for me.

The main difficulty encountered was to find men willing to risk their lives climbing the largest trees. One soon resigned, another permanently crippled himself by a slip of his axe, so that I have had but one climber for all that has been done.

My object has been to do the most essential work first, such as cutting away dead branches, the shortening of overgrown limbs, filling cavities and sealing against the extension of decay. Gas-tar was applied, as recommended, to heal all wounds made.

Many trees were being injured by others struggling for existence too near them—thus it was found necessary to remove several.

To dig out the large stumps, cut the wood into shape for fuel, haul the fuel away and destroy countless loads of brush kept other men employed.

What pruning was done the past winter is preliminary to a more thorough shaping of the trees during another year. Attention has been given first, naturally, to the trees about the lawns, a count of which shows that 269 have been pruned and 53 removed. To continue this work throughout our woodland will be beneficial and necessary, but a much larger force of men must be employed for its early accomplishment. The cost of the work so far amounts to \$407.45.

#### COMPOST FOR LAWNS.

In connection with the improvement of trees, the soil covering their roots was heavily mulched with rich compost. Seven scow loads of this material were purchased and spread upon ten acres of wheat, four acres of pasture, three acres of orchard, the flower garden, the kitchen garden, as well as all the lawns. Notwithstanding the liberal enrichment of our lawns last autumn I must, with regret, point to their poor appearance now, but with no idea as to its cause or complete remedy. The only consolation I have is, that the same condition prevails throughout this section and in Washington, where special care has failed to produce better results. The bare spots indicate where that pest—wire grass—is deeply rooted but the top has died. Such places have been raked and sown with lawn-grass seed and white clover. Soon these blemishes will be obliterated.

#### GREENHOUSE.

The propagating house at east end of flower garden—that built in 1891, from donation by Vice Regent for Wisconsin—I reported at last Council as needing extensive repairs. Accordingly, its reconstruction was arranged for and put in execution last summer. The woodwork was entirely rebuilt. Of course, most of the glass was used again. The total cost of these repairs, including glazing, painting and new stages, was \$222.10.

#### GREENHOUSE HEATERS.

At the same time I carried out the authorization of Council by changing the old cast iron heating coils which had done good service in the three greenhouses for upward of twenty years, but found to be weakened by age, replacing them with modern wrought iron tubing. The heating capacity has been increased. Not a joint or valve has leaked. A Washington firm contracted for this; the bill was \$580.00.

#### WAGON SHED AND BARN-YARD FENCE.

Council also authorized me to arrange better facilities and shelter for our farming wagons and other implements, by an extension of shed from barnyard toward the carpenter's shop. This was roofed with corrugated iron, with eave gutter, etc., the work being done by our regular employes, who also rebuilt the barn-yard fence, which was beyond the possibility of ordinary repairs. I slightly enlarged the enclosure to give better chance for turning wagons, as well as for the accommodation of stock. Cost of shed and fence, \$73.37.

#### MARBLE TABLET IN TOMB.

To allay the frequent criticism on the part of visitors the position of the marble tablet in the tomb naming date and maker of the sarcophagi was changed to where it would no longer be seen from the doorway.

The interior and exterior of the tomb enclosure had some repairing.

#### MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS.

I always have to report a number of repairs unforeseen at the beginning of our fiscal year and which therefore do not appear in the list of "approximate estimates" submitted to Council. As a rule they are incidental in character and attended to by our regular employes.

After the Broadus family moved from the west lodge gate the buildings were made ready for the next occupants.



It was found necessary to entirely renew the plastering of the two lodges, also the roof of the kitchen.

A better chimney was provided for the coachman's kitchen, his cabin whitewashed, his roof painted and a store-room added.

The old seed house (designated school room), in the flower garden, required new sills and floor.

The plastering and woodwork in the laundry was patched, the walls and ceilings calcimined and the woodwork painted.

The galvanized iron work at the railway gate, also the metal and shingle roof of the two lodges there were painted.

The shingle roof of the housekeeper's cabin, and quarters, every metal roof and eave gutter, had similar attention.

Leaks in the tin roof of library porch, shingle roof of mansion and other buildings were promptly corrected.

Wire screens for doors and windows were removed after fly season and during the winter were repaired, painted and made ready for spring. Now they are in position again.

Inclement weather of winter was used for much interior work such as repainting the walls of library, parlor and banquet hall. Clocks were repaired and new carpet strips placed at some of the doorways. The walls of the family kitchen were cleaned, articles of furniture mended, floors stained, additional protection given the mansion stairs, curtains in family dining room were cleaned and relined. Cellars of all the buildings have been cleaned and whitewashed. Brick walls were pointed, board walks repaired, temporary walks laid during winter, ventilators of greenhouse and boiler room improved, fences, walls and buildings whitewashed, block pavement at railway gate extended, the farm wagon repaired, a wagon bridge strengthened, stalls in stable improved, an extension ladder was rebuilt. The cabin wells were cleaned as usual. The steam engines were inspected

by an expert and pronounced safe for another year. The iron hose plugs about the several buildings were changed for brass connections. The chemical engines had their periodical overhauling and new hose was purchased to better the equipment.

Our men also found time for such outside painting as the balustrade and cornice of east portico, the library porch, wharf pavillion, flag staffs, greenhouse sash, and palm tubs, also the columns of colonades leading to mansion.

Some painting and calcimining was done in the quarters, kitchen, spinning house and lavatories. Notices were placed conspicuously to warn visitors against smoking near the buildings or in the flower garden. The enforcement of this important rule has been made easy by these signs.

#### DAY LABORERS.

To the day laborers was assigned such steady employment as was required from time to time. They dug up and repaved the old cobblestone gutters, tarring them when finished; they did the excavating, grading, and hauling of material incidental to the new brick pavements; they dug the trenches (1000 feet in all) and planted the privet hedges; the plowing, planting, making hay, hauling and spreading compost, spading gardens, raking lawns, mending roads and walks; in fact, all the farm work and attention to grounds fell to their share. The handling of brush, stumps, etc., after the tree trimmers took much of their time, also. They transplanted native trees and shrubs from our woods to adorn the grounds—cedars, holly, dogwood, laurel, and wild azalia; they covered the terrace west of the tomb with sods of myrtle; also extended similar protection against washing the hillside between tomb and wharf. Last winter an opportune freeze gave these men a chance to fill our ice house from a dam two miles distant.

## KITCHEN GARDEN.

The kitchen garden had regular attention during the past season and supplied the employes with fresh vegetables. An especial effort was made to establish a strawberry bed, but I am convinced that the proximity of the large trees beyond the wall harm the strawberries, as well as the asparagus, and I have to suggest changing these plants to the lower terrace this year.

The grapevines and young raspberries are thrifty and promising.

All fruit trees and vines were carefully pruned. The fig bushes now released from winter covering show they are in good condition.

Whether the young plums, pears, apricots and quinces planted next the high brick wall will succeed needs more time to determine. At present they are thrifty but not in fruit.

In the hot beds were grown early lettuce and radishes, while our stock of tomatoes and parsley has been forced for planting.

Ground was enriched, plowed and made ready for this year's crop as soon as the late spring frosts would allow. Peas, beans, onions, beets, carrots, corn and tomatoes have been planted. For potatoes a change was made to a space of new ground on the Gould lot.

To improve the appearance in the kitchen garden a gravel walk has been extended across the lower terrace, temporary steps connecting the upper and lower walks.

## FARM.

Following gladly a recommendation of the farm committee a considerable portion of the manure purchased last autumn was applied to our fields.

About 18 acres received this valuable ingredient and I

trust similar treatment can soon be extended to all the fields in turn.

Last year's crop of corn, millet and timothy was good. It was an off year however for oats throughout this section. Our lots this year are utilized as follows: 14 acres in wheat (sown also to timothy and clover), 9 acres in oats, 10 acres in timothy, 4 acres seeded to permanent pasture, 14 acres prepared for corn and 14 acres old pasture.

A portion of the swamp meadow may be used for fodder, corn or millet.

All the produce of the farm, except wheat or rye, is consumed by our stock and the resultant manurial compost returned to the soil. With more frequent applications of lime improvment is gradually advancing. I hope this coming year both lime and manure can be purchased.

The U.S. department of agriculture, to which we are indebted for trees, plants, seeds, etc., asked of us last autumn a quantity of black walnuts for propagating. Thus was I able to partially reciprocate past favors.

#### LIVE STOCK.

Of live stock there are now five horses, six cows, three calves, one bull and eighteen deer. Several fawns and one doe died last winter. Four deer and five calves were sold.

Five young peafowls were purchased.

A hive of Italian bees was received from the Vice Regent for Connecticut for the garden.

Through the Vice Regent for Michigan was obtained the quaint old coach, which many will remember was exhibited at the Philadelphia Centennial as the Washington coach. Though its original ownership is questioned, it does not fail to attract much interest from daily visitors.

The comfort and appearance of the office are greatly improved by the carpet, curtains and clock selected by the Vice Regent for Rhode Island.

## DONATIONS.

The following articles were received and duly acknowledged:

Miss McFadden (94 years) repeated her former kindness by sending two new flags, one for fair weather and one for foul.

Mr. Thomas Nelson Page, the author, sent a quaint old engraving representing Washington's death.

From Mr. W. R. Benjamin, of New York, three letters written by Miss Cunningham concerning the Mount Vernon purchase.

From Mr. J. W. Sargent, of Providence, R. I., an Aubusson carpet and a pair of brass andirons.

From descendants of General Webb, staff officer of Washington, a small engraved portrait. This was hung in the banquet hall as Council decided.

## PEALE PORTRAIT OF WASHINGTON.

The large equestrian portrait of Washington before Yorktown, was, by direction of the Regent, moved to the Corcoran art gallery for needed repairs.

## DECORATION OF TOMB.

May 30. The tomb was decorated as usual on Memorial day with the national emblem and a profusion of blooming plants. The President sent a handsome wreath.

June 8. Officers from the Brazilian training ship "Benjamin Constant" brought a floral tribute to Washington.

July 4. Independence day was duly observed.

December 14. Masonic lodges placed memorial wreaths on the sarcophagus.

February 22. Washington's birthday was suitably remembered by evergreen and floral decoration.

February 28. Prince Henry of Prussia and suite presented wreaths and planted a linden tree.

March 19. The Phi Kappa Psi fraternity planted an elm in sight of the tomb.

April 17. Count Matsukata, ex-prime minister of Japan, and Japanese embassy, were interested visitors at Washington's resting place.

#### EMPLOYES.

The death of the old negro, Thomas Bushrod, the guard at the tomb, occurred shortly before Christmas. He was buried at Pohick church where he had long served as sexton. His successor here is Alfred Jasper whose grandfather was a servant of Washington.

Two other changes occurred among the employes. Quaas was appointed to the position of assistant gardener, vacated by Schubert. Thomas, the efficient carpenter and guard, resigned and was succeeded by W. L. Rouse.

Both of these new men have served their probationary term satisfactorily.

Indeed it gives me pleasuse to commend all the employes who have performed their duties so faithfully.

The steamboat service was interrupted by heavy ice in January and the opportunity was availed of by the boat company to make needed repairs.

The daily trips were resumed March 1.

The railroad has run without interruption the entire year.

#### BROADUS FAMILY.

Last Council voted to defray the funeral expenses of old Richard Broadus, ex-coachman and long time pensioner. I found the expenses amounted to about \$100, and had been paid out of savings the old man had intended for his minor children. With the approval of the Regent I opened an account in the National Safe Deposit, Savings and Trust Co., of Washington, as trustees for these children and de-

posited the \$100. There it should be allowed to remain (accumulating interest) until the youngest child, Alfred, now about sixteen, becomes of age.

Ladies, in conclusion, I wish to thank you for your attention to this, my recital of affairs, and I trust your examination of the property will result satisfactorily. Particularly am I indebted to the Regent for her ever patient consideration of the innumerable matters with which I have to trouble her during the interim of Councils. Her decisions and directions show how deep her heart is in this work of preserving and protecting Mount Vernon.

I have the honor to be, faithfully yours,

HARRISON H. DODGE,

Resident Secretary and Superintendent.

Mount Vernon, Va., April 30, 1902.

#### INVENTORY OF MOVABLE PROPERTY.

Dayton wagon and harness,	Two wagon-jacks,
Coach and harness,	Grindstone,
Horse-cart and harness,	Sledge hammer,
Hay-frame,	Five iron rakes,
Two-horse mower,	Farm wagon and harness,
Two one-horse mowers,	Plow harness,
Two hand mowers,	Cultivator,
Horse rake,	Nine long-handle shovels,
Head halters for horses,	Ten short handle shovels,
Two two-horse plows,	Three spades,
One one-horse plow,	Ten Mattocks,
Subsoil plow,	Fifteen picks,
Road scraper,	One garden fork,
Road scoop,	Four wooden rakes.
Two wooden harrows,	Nine garden hoes,
Spring tooth harrow,	Three weeding hoes,
Lawn harrow,	Two coal shovels,
Three stone rollers,	Two grain cradles,
Cutting box,	Two grass scythes and snathes.
Corn sheller,	Two brier scythes,

Corn seeder,	Corn coverer,
Grass seeder,	Potato drag,
Three double shovels,	One tile spade,
Five hay forks,	Two sand screens,
Two pitch forks,	Six axes,
Two manure forks,	Three cross-cut saws,
Forge and anvil,	Three iron wedges,
Four wheelbarrows.	One doubletree,
Two crowbars,	Horse bucket,
One sod cutter,	Half-bushel measure.
Three Ice hooks,	Carpenter's tools,
Iron rammer,	Nine portable fire-extinguishers,
Wooden rammer,	Appliances for chemical engines,
Jack screw,	Four Corn knives.

Mount Vernon, April 30, 1902.

### Financial Statement of Receipts and Expenditures at Mount Vernon, April, 1902.

#### RECEIPTS.

Flowers.....	\$147 50
Guide books.....	186 00
Mount Vernon Views .....	118 00
Milk .....	55 30
Butter .....	2 80
"Maxims" .....	2 25
"Sketches".....	75
"Homi".....	15
Lamp oil .....	48
Coach fares.....	23 50
Calf .....	10 00
Canes.....	4 50
Wharf entrances.....	2 50
	<hr/>
	\$553 73

#### ESTATE RECEIPTS.

Visitors by electric railway, 7856, at 25c.....	1,964 00
Visitors by boat, 4340, at 25c.....	1,085 00
Wharfage for April, 1902.....	8 33
	<hr/>
Dept. by Superintendent	Total.....
	\$3,611 06



## EXPENDITURES.

Pay-roll of employees .....		1,178 32
Day laborers—wages.....	\$100 00	
Walter Roberts—mill feed.....	26 60	
Leadbeater & Sons—paints, oils, etc .....	25 20	
Leet Brothers, Mount Vernon views .....	42 03	
Andrew Arnold—brooms .....	3 60	
C. Schneider's Sons, porcelain plates (tree markers)..	1 20	
Anton Lerch—cleaning bedspreads and shams.....	4 00	
Edward S. Schmied, peafowls (5).....	15 00	
W. H. May & Sons, plowshares, etc.....	2 30	
Lewis Gillingham, repairing Mount Vernon roads.....	4 50	
S. J. Bemkeimer, repairing harness.....	85	
Incidentals—telephone, postage, express.....	3 69	228 97
		<hr/>
		\$1,467 29

## SPECIALS—

Trimming trees—laborer's wages .....	62 95
Hose for chemical engines—M. Lindsay Rubber Co.—hose—225 feet .....	100 00
Greenhouse—Wm. H. Ernest, flower pots .....	8 10
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$1,578 34

## **STATE REPORTS.**

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### **ALABAMA STATE REPORT.**

**BIRMINGHAM, Alabama, May 1, 1902.**

The Vice Regent for Alabama reports two entertainments given in the interest of Mt. Vernon, also visits made to various organizations and schools for the purpose of increasing the interest to our people in the work of the Association.

Letters asking for information, and invitations to visit other portions of the state indicate that a deeper interest will from this date forward mark the records of our State Reports.

Steps have been taken towards furnishing the Alabama Room, and relics found that will be referred to the proper Committee before purchasing.

One of the Ladies' Clubs has written that they will spend one afternoon tacking rags for a carpet for the Alabama Room at Mt. Vernon.

**LIZZIE JOHNSON JOHNSTON,**  
Vice Regent for Alabama.

### **CALIFORNIA STATE REPORT.**

I have to report the continuation of building the sea-wall to protect the shores of the Mount Vernon tract purchased by the Association. It resulted last year in closing the breach of nearly 300 feet next the wharf, and an extension at the eastward end of 45 feet, making the total length of the wall 2150 feet. To complete the wall the necessary coping has been ordered and will be laid this season.

My annual reports have so long been of sea-wall construction that I trust next year I may be able to change the subject.

It is with more regret than I can express that I am compelled to be absent from Council this year.

**PHŒBE A. HEARST,**  
Vice Regent from California.

**COLORADO NO REPORT.****CONNECTICUT STATE REPORT.**

I regret not being able, this year, to record, as I did last, any Mount Vernon Celebration in Europe, but I have scattered our reports for 1901 among American residents abroad, in the foreign cities where I have sojourned, hoping thus to enlighten our countrywomen upon the work of our Association.

Mrs. Hepburn Smith, of Milford, Connecticut, has again shown her interest in Mt. Vernon by the gift of a curious knitted quilt for the Connecticut room, the work of a Spanish girl, in the early seventies.

With the object of renewing the old associations of this estate, I have supplied a hive of Italian bees for the kitchen garden, and also five young pea fowl.

Respectfully submitted,

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON,

Vice Regent for Connecticut.

“Mr. H. Dodge:—

“This quilt was knitted in the early Seventies, by a young Spanish girl for her brother who was at school at Claverack on Hudson, New York State. His name was Juan Martinez, from Pincherra, Spain. He afterward gave it to me. I have had it twenty years or more. After visiting Mt. Vernon last summer, I decided to send it to the Connecticut room. I trust it may remain there as many years as I have owned it. Miss Edith Hall, of Washington, tied the fringe around it.

“MARY A. HEPBURN SMITH,

“December 26, 1901, midnight.”

“of Milford, Conn.”

**DELAWARE STATE REPORT.**

Two years before a Vice Regent was appointed in Delaware, 1856, 1857 and early in 1858, some collections were made in the state for the benefit of the Mount Vernon Association. The record book of the work done at that time was lost; last winter it was found at Wilmington, at a sale of old books, and was presented by the purchaser to the

Cæsar Rodney Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. They recognized the fact that it in no way concerned their organization, and have presented it to this Association, through the Vice Regent for Delaware.

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,  
Vice Regent for Delaware.

#### GEORGIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Georgia begs to report the gift of a French clock, date of the First Empire, for the Georgia Room, sent by the Mount Vernon Society of Savannah.

Also a small Colonial chair and footstool from her old home, presented by Mrs. J. F. Minis, of Savannah.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,  
Vice Regent for Georgia.

#### KANSAS STATE REPORT.

No moneys have been received from the state, except the annual gift of one dollar from Mrs. Sleeper, of Iola, Kansas.

Covers for bureau and wash stand in Kansas room have been given by two Ottawa young ladies.

Furniture was purchased after Council, last year, at a cost of \$39.45, balance remaining of the amount contributed by Kansas. Reports were distributed throughout the state.

JENNIE MEEKER WARD,  
Vice Regent for Kansas.

#### LOUISIANA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Louisiana has to report that, as usual for a number of years, she has on the 22nd of February presented to the public school children in New Orleans, 1500 copies of Andrew Reed's "Memorial to Washington," and it is with no little pleasure she returns to the home of Washington a dining room chair, one of the set formerly here. It is presented by Miss G. P. Harrod, and her broth-

B. Morgan Harrod, of New Orleans. The following story: Miss Harrod writes:

The name of the lady from whom my father got the chair in the  
as escaped my memory; she was a relative of the Laurance  
ton of that time and he gave her the chairs. My sister, Mrs.  
d Campbell, spent several summers at her home, near Wash-  
She told my father of these chairs, and when they went to in-  
er she was unwilling to sell another, but being urged, showed  
of a stuffed rocking chair she would give one in exchange for.  
r sent it, and this one came in exchange. Mrs Judge Mason  
ister's chair and said it was one of General Washington's din-  
chairs, and that the original covering of the seat was watered  
rocco. On ripping up the covering, there it was."

Also present this little "housewife" from Miss Geor-  
cKay. It was once the property of Nellie Custis and  
Miss McKay's great-grandmother, Mrs. Clement,  
a hundred years ago, in Philadelphia.

urchased the pair of plated candlesticks from H. S.  
rman, who had them from Elizabeth Kreigh, who  
ed them through her father, Samuel Kreigh, from her  
ther, Wadsworth Kreigh, to whom they were given  
nel Humphreys, one of General Washington's aide  
ps. They are presented to General Washington's  
m

d to the regents and vice regents I present an old  
ed set of silver, for afternoon tea.

IDA A. RICHARDSON,  
Vice Regent for Louisiana.

#### MAINE STATE REPORT.

the absence of any report of work done in my state,  
imply record a personal action of my own which re-  
Mount Vernon. While in England last summer, I  
that Prof. Dyer, of Baliol College, at Oxford, who  
ited Mount Vernon recently, deeply regretted not  
obtained a picture of Mount Vernon. I have sent

him one of the best of our colored views and received from him a most cordial letter of thanks.

MARGARET J. M. SWEAT,  
Vice Regent for Maine.

#### MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPORT.

I am not able to report much work done for Mount Vernon this year. The reports have been distributed and a little money has been added to the Massachusetts fund by reading my little paper on Mount Vernon.

Mary Mattoon Chapter D. A. R., Amherst . . . \$5.00  
Miss Caroline Derby, Boston . . . . . 5 00

The curtains in the Massachusetts room have been renewed and a rug over one hundred years old, the gift of Mr. John Sargent, of Providence, R. I., has been placed on the floor.

The antique glass mantel ornaments which have been badly defaced by visitors, have been carefully restored and are now placed in the Ohio room.

Respectfully submitted,  
ALICE M. LONGFELLOW,  
Vice Regent for Massachusetts.

#### MICHIGAN STATE REPORT.

The Michigan state report is mainly concerned with the consummation of the purchase of the old coach, which was exhibited in 1876 as Washington's "white chariot." The coach was purchased in June 1901, for \$350.00, and was then put into the hands of a carriage maker in New York, for necessary repairs. The cost of repairs amounted to \$327, making the total expenditure in securing the old coach, \$677. This expenditure was met by the Vice Regent for Michigan with funds contributed by the Detroit Mount Vernon Society.

Before closing her report, the Vice Regent for Michigan would like to add a few words in memoriam of the late

Vice Regent for Florida. Delicate health prevented Mrs. Baker's attendance at many of the councils, but her heart was with the work, and she was always looking forward to the time when she could participate more actively. Mrs. Baker was a woman with much gentleness and sweetness, with, likewise, much firmness and loyalty to conviction, which combination makes a well rounded character. We sympathize with the sorrow of her family and friends in her loss, and regret her place left vacant at our Council board.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,

Vice Regent for Michigan.

#### MINNESOTA STATE REPORT.

It is with much regret that I report my inability to attend the meeting of the Council this year. There is little to report, other than the presentation to the Minnesota Historical Society of a full set of Mount Vernon reports, together with one of the new "river view" photographs of Mount Vernon.

REBECCA B. FLANDRAU.

#### MISSOURI STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Missouri reports with pleasure continued interest of the Patriotic Societies in the work of the Association.

The gift of \$39.30 from the Sons of the Revolution—a beautiful old secretary—a center table and chair for the committee room in the east quarters, granted by Council last year to the Vice Regents from Rhode Island, Texas and Missouri.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM,

Vice Regent for Missouri.

#### NEBRASKA STATE REPORT.

As Vice Regent for the state of Nebraska I make the following report:

I received and distributed the annual report for the year 1901 and corresponded with a few of my acquaintances in regard to the objects of the association.

The following contributions were made:

Mrs. George A. Josslyn . . . . .	\$25.00
Mrs. Charles N. Dietz . . . . .	10.00
Mrs. Herman Kountze . . . . .	5.00
Mrs. G. W. Wattles . . . . .	5.00
Mrs. Thomas Kilpatrick . . . . .	5.00
Personal, R. S. M. . . . .	5.00
Total . . . . .	<u>\$55.00</u>

All of Omaha, Nebraska.

For \$50.00, of which amount I enclose my check on the Omaha National Bank, payable to the order of Treasurer Riggs, and the check of Mrs. Kilpatrick for \$5.00, being a total of \$55.00.

The interest of our young state in the objects of the association will undoubtedly increase, and I hope the societies composed of the descendants of those who served in the Colonial wars and the American revolution will make proper recognition of the importance of the preservation and care of the home and tomb of Washington.

I ask the acceptance of a small plate that came to me from an ancestor on the paternal side. Experts believe that it is unique and that all others like it were destroyed.

It is of common blue ware, known at the time of its manufacture as semi-china. The face of the plate has a representation of a capitol building, very similar to the first erected at Washington, which was destroyed by the British in the war of 1812. On the back of the plate is the inscription, "Mount Vernon, the seat of government of the United States."

Mr. Gardiner G. Hubbard, deceased, whose knowledge of historical matters was profound, told me several years ago, when I showed him the plate, that he did not believe there was another like it in the world and that it bore out



the truth of the statement sometimes made, that the estate of George Washington at Mount Vernon was first desired for the location of the Federal Capital, and it was while that was contemplated that these plates were made.

It certainly would have been most fitting that this beautiful place should have been selected, not only because of its convenience and suitable surroundings, but in recognition of the great service of the Father of his Country. It is not unlikely that Washington himself prevented such location, because of his desire to maintain his home and perhaps the dread that he might be charged with self interest.

Respectfully submitted.

REBEKAH S. MANDERSON,  
Vice Regent for Nebraska.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for New Hampshire reports that on April, Second, ult., she received from the Assignee of the Cheshire Provident Institution, Keene, N. H., a check for (\$16.51) payment of third dividend, ordered by the court—being 10 per cent of amount due the Association on the "Sarah King Hale" fund, by the Commissioner.

This check was sent Mr. Riggs, treasurer. His acknowledgement of same is herewith enclosed. She deeply regrets unavoidable absence from Council.

ABBY K. WINDER,  
Vice Regent for New Hampshire.

Portsmouth, May 7, 1902.

"APRIL 4, 1902.

"MRS. A. R. WINDER, Vice Regent for N. H.,  
Portsmouth, N. H.,

"My Dear Madame—I have your note of 2d inst, enclosing check of the Assignee of the Cheshire Provident Institution on the Cheshire National Bank of Keene, N. H., for \$16.51, which I place to the credit of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association Endowment Fund, account Sarah Hale King Fund. Faithfully yours,

E. FRANCIS RIGGS, Treasurer."

### NEW JERSEY STATE REPORT

The Vice Regent of New Jersey reported the work done in her state during the past year. The commendation of the furniture committee was to place new carpet and curtains in the room. Some old fashioned white dimity was purchased and the work of making balls of yarn was kindly undertaken by the Nassau Daughters of the American Revolution in New Jersey. At the suggestion of Miss M. J. regent of the chapter, and with the aid of Mrs. E. L. B. Godfrey, the present regent, Clarence K. Binder and Mrs. Henry J. Binder, a sufficient number of balls was made and sent to Mount Vernon, to be woven. All the work on the carpet was borne by the Nassau chapter.

Other contributions were:

From Mount Vernon Society of Trenton	
From Mount Vernon Society of Princeton	
From Mount Vernon Society of New Brunswick	
From Miss Clarke, of Belvidere . . .	
From Colonial Dames, of Trenton . .	
From Mount Vernon Society of Elizabeth	
Total . . . . .	

Twenty-five dollars was paid for the purchase of new hangings; the remainder is reserved for the improvement to the New Jersey room.

HELEN F. CONOVER  
Vice Regent

### NEW YORK STATE REPORT

The Vice Regent for New York reported that there is a marked increase in the interest in the work of the chapter. During the two visits I made

found everything most satisfactory. I have given to the New York room a set of linen.

AMY TOWNSEND,  
Vice Regent for New York.

#### NORTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.

An annual statement is made through the journals of the state, as to the financial status of Mount Vernon, and other interesting items are given, with gratifying results, as they elicit many demands for Mount Vernon literature. A valuable donation to the library has been made, of photos of the men who have helped the president of the Guilford Battle Ground Association, to make it a most attractive spot, with lakes, drives, and seventeen monuments; also pictures of two of the heroes of the Revolution.

Respectfully submitted,  
L. H. WALKER,  
Vice Regent for North Carolina.

#### OHIO STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Ohio begs leave to report the gift of seventy-five dollars; twenty-five dollars from Mrs. Paul J. Sorg, of Middletown, Ohio; twenty-five dollars from Mrs. Mary W. Emery, of Cincinnati, Ohio; and twenty-five dollars from Mrs. A. Howard Hinkle, of Cincinnati, Ohio, in memory of her mother, Mrs. Katherine Landon Davis. This money is contributed by personal friends, who will be pleased if it can be used for the purchase of the new curtains required for the Ohio room.

ELIZABETH OWENS CAMPBELL,  
May 12, 1902. Vice Regent for Ohio.

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Pennsylvania has succeeded in procuring the old-fashioned chairs mentioned in her report of last year. They are now in the river room.

During the month of March the Vice Regent received a letter from Athens, Alabama, asking with "due ceremony" for an account of our life at Mount Vernon. Vice Regent replied by sending to Alabama a copy of Hudson's little book, "The Home of Washington."

The Vice Regent has the pleasure to announce the to the Mount Vernon Association of a miniature of Washington, by Birch, 1797; also a wine cooler, once the property of Washington, will be loaned by Mr. John McH of Baltimore.

The Vice Regent has also ordered a cake made from receipt of Mrs. Washington, called a "Great Cake." original receipt was copied by Nellie Custis, "for her grandmother," and sent to Mrs. Robert Morris, of Philadelphia and is dated "Mount Vernon."

Mr. Charles Custis Harrison sends his annual subscription of \$50.00 to Mount Vernon.

ELLEN WALN HARRISON,  
Vice Regent for Pennsylvania

#### RHODE ISLAND STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent of Rhode Island reports the gift rug, from an old historical house in Bristol, R. I., by John Sargent; also a pair of andirons; also, a very bronze clock and chair for Mr. Dodge's office. Counciling given permission to furnish a room in the "East Quarters," as a committee room, Rhode Island contributed clock over 150 years old, a mirror and two chairs for room.

A tea set of Lowestoft China was presented by Henry G. Russell, to be used in the committee room of Quarters. This china has been in her family above 100 years.

"The Daughters of the American Revolution" gave sum of \$50.00, as last year.

Respectfully submitted,

A. I. C. D. AMES,

Vice Regent of Rhode Island

### TENNESSEE STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Tennessee regrets that she has accomplished no work in her state during the past year. Reports have been distributed.

MARY YEATMAN WEBB,  
Vice Regent for Tennessee.

### TEXAS STATE REPORT.

It is with pleasure that the Vice Regent for Texas reports an increasing interest throughout the state, in Mount Vernon. The indebtedness on the gateway has been paid, and she hopes to be able, during the coming year, to collect enough money to undertake, in the name of Texas, some other improvement. She distributed about seventy reports and would have been glad to have sent out more of them. A list of those who contributed during the past year to the gate fund, is attached to this report.

A rag carpet has been put into the committee room granted by Council in the east quarters.

The Daughters of the Republic, of Texas, have kindly offered to donate for the Texas room, a flag of the United States, and also one of the state, which offer has been gratefully accepted.

The Century Club, of Cuero, through Mrs. A.	
B. Davidson . . . . .	\$15.00
Colonial Dames of America, in Texas . . . . .	25.00
Mrs. Charles E. Tips . . . . .	16.00
Mrs. Isabella Kopperl . . . . .	1.00
Mr. D. H. Hart . . . . .	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Turney . . . . .	20.00
Mrs. John C. Krause . . . . .	17.00
Yaqui Tribe No. 59, Improved Order of Red	
Men, Laredo . . . . .	21.00
Miss Wise . . . . .	1.00
Thomas S. Maxey . . . . .	25.00
Total . . . . .	<u>\$146.00</u>

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
Vice Regent for Texas.

## VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.

In response to the urgent request of the Virginia Commissioner to the Interstate Exposition, at Charleston I sent a full set of Mount Vernon views, colored and prettily mounted and enclosed in three good frames exhibited in the Woman's building.

With money contributed by pupils of Virginia schools I have purchased and presented to Council a model of LaFayette's *pitcher*, and have placed it among the relics.

From Mr. John R. Tomlin I have received a very fine embroidered likeness of Washington, done in embroidery on silk; copy of an original portrait made by her James Sharpless.

From the Vice Regent for Louisiana I have received for use in Washington's bedchamber, an antique basin and pitcher, an antique mahogany stool and a pair of walking sticks, once the property of Col. Humphreys, one of Washington's aides.

From the National Society of Colonial Dames, Virginia, I have received the gift of \$25.00, to be used in prosecution of the work of placing pictures of Washington in the public schools of Virginia. Received from Virginia.

A large arm chair, once the property of Mary Ball Washington, mother of Washington. This is a *loan* by Mr. Julius C. Ball, of Alexandria.

EMMA READ BALL,

Vice Regent of Virginia

NO STATE REPORT FROM WEST VIRGINIA.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

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### **REPORT OF MANSION COMMITTEES.**

The chairman of mansion committee reports with pleasure the excellent condition in which they find all the buildings. Painting has been done in several rooms by our own men, making the wood work fresh and attractive. Our committee respectfully suggests that the present Council take action on the protection of tiles on the front porch, which, during the last year, show greater signs of wear. The committee also recommend the whitewashing the inside of the gate house and a coat of paint on the wood work of the gate. The quarters, also, need a coat of paint on the inside of the building.

Respectfully submitted.

E. W. HARRISON,  
Acting Chairman.

### **REPORT OF TOMB COMMITTEE.**

Your committee has made a careful inspection of both tombs and find them in good condition. Restorations have been made at old tomb; the plants are growing nicely. During the winter, the paint on new tomb will be renewed. The usual decorations are annually observed.

LETITIA H. WALKER, Chairman.  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
FRANCES C. MAXEY.

A subsequent action was taken by Council to place a pavement on the floor of the tomb, of the same material as the base of the sarcophagi.

### **REPORT OF RELIC COMMITTEE.**

Your committee has made a thorough inspection of all the cases containing relics. Every article was found in place and in good condition. The cases and their contents

have been thoroughly cleansed and the committee has conscientiously carried out the by-law governing this commi

We have received from the Vice Regent of Nebraska a plate, supposed to be the only one now in existence, set ordered to be made when it was contemplated to name "Mount Vernon the Seat of Government."

Through the Vice Regent for Louisiana we have received one of the original dining room chairs, presented by Miss G. P. Harrod and her brother, B. Morgan Harrod, New Orleans.

This Vice Regent also brings a "housewife," once the property of Nellie Custis and presented by Miss George McKay.

She also presents a pair of candlesticks once owned by Colonel Humphreys, an aide to Washington.

With money contributed to Mount Vernon by pupils in Virginia schools, the Vice Regent for Virginia has purchased a La Fayette memorial pitcher; upon one side a medallion likeness of General La Fayette, upon the other the surrender of Cornwallis. This interesting relic is presented to Council from the children of Virginia.

We have received from Mr. John R. Tomlin, of Virginia, a beautiful likeness of Washington, done in embroidery on silk. The history of this remarkable relic follows: James Sharpless, the English artist, visited Mount Vernon between the years 1794-1798 and painted a portrait of Washington. Rosalinda Sharpless, his daughter, he also an artist, often copied her father's portraits in embroidery, giving the effect of etching. Rosalinda copied her father's portrait of Washington. Years later, she found a temporary home with the Braxtons, at Brandon, and at that time Miss Sharpless gave this embroidered likeness to Mary Grymes Braxton, wife of Carter Braxton, grandson of one of the signers of the declaration of Independence. John R. Tomlin, the last owner of this picture, was a daughter



of Mrs. Carter Braxton, of Ingleside, Hanover county, who, before her death, desired that it should be presented to the Mount Vernon Association.

Mr. Julius de Lagnel of Alexandria, Va., has sent to the Association, as a loan, a large, leather-covered arm chair, which once belonged to Mary Ball, the mother of Washington.

The Vice Regent for Michigan has secured the noted "White Chariot," exhibited in Philadelphia, in 1876, as the Washington coach. It now stands in the coach house.

EMMA R. BALL, Chairman.

IDA A. RICHARDSON.

#### REPORT OF FURNITURE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee has examined most thoroughly all the rooms and furniture therein and would recommend the following, viz.:

That the Vice Regent of the District of Columbia be requested to arrange the bed with curtains and a proper spring; also, a white curtain for the window.

Remove two heavy library chairs—one from Benjamin Franklin; the other, a Washington chair, from Pennsylvania room to one of the lower rooms, by request of the Vice Regent for Pennsylvania.

The dressing case and washstand in New Jersey room be rubbed down and oiled.

That the Council table be lengthened to suit the needs of Council.

Your Committee would also suggest that Council would seriously consider, before accepting any more articles for this mansion, reserved only for Washington's own effects, it being the most disagreeable duty of the Furniture Committee to ask, from time to time, for the removal of the same

Respectfully submitted,

A. I. C. D. AMES, Chairman.

CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM,

HELEN F. CONOVER,

AMY TOWNSEND,

GEORGIA P. WILDER,

ELLEN WALN HARRISON.

May 13, 1902.

Vice Regent for Massachusetts moved that the report of Furniture Committee be taken up clause by clause.

Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Hudson, Vice Regent for Connecticut, reported that the Vice Regent for District of Columbia was about to make the needed changes in that room.

#### REPORT OF RECORD COMMITTEE.

Your committee add to the Early Records, this year, some very valuable letters and a book of newspaper clippings. The letters were given to the Association by our treasurer, Mr. Riggs. They were written to his father, our first treasurer, by Miss Cunningham and Vice Regents and date from 1858 to 1868. The newspaper clippings date from 1853 to 1859.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, Chairman.

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON,

JENNIE M. WARD.

#### REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The Committee reports the books on the shelves to be in good condition. The following books have been added:

Three volumes of a work by John Adams, LL. D., second president of the United States.

"A Defense of the Constitution of the United States of America against the Attack of M. Turgot, in his letter to Dr. Price." Published March 22d, 1778, by Wm. Cobbett. Presented by the Vice Regent for Massachusetts.

A volume of Thompson's Seasons, 1746; presented by Mr. A. W. Longfellow.

Report of the Virginia Board of Visitors for 1901; presented by the Virginia State Library.

ALICE M. LONGFELLOW, Chairman.

MARGARET J. M. SWEAT,

MARY Y. WEBB,

LIZZIE JOHNSON JOHNSTON,

HELEN F CONOVER,

IDA A. RICHARDSON,

E. B. A. RATHBONE.

### RESOLUTION UPON BY-LAWS.

WHEREAS, A number of changes have been made since the printing of the Constitution and By-Laws, in 1890;

*Resolved*, That the Committee on By-Laws be authorized to incorporate all the alterations that have been acted upon at various Councils since, and present them at next Council, for final action, before reprinting the Constitution and By-Laws, which govern the actions of the Mount Vernon Association in regard to the nomination and election of Vice Regents and the duties of Committees. IDA A. RICHARDSON.

Carried.

Secretary requested not to print By-Laws this year.

### REPORT OF GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE.

1. It is recommended that the gardener be instructed to plant running roses and other vines on the inside of the wall of the Palm House.

2. That walks and roadway in the rear of Quarters be marked out and sodded where necessary.

3. That Harison roses (*Harrisonii*) be planted near the Lodge.

4. That lilies of the valley be planted along the west wall of the garden.

5. That a bed of single white hyacinths (*Roman*) be made on a suitable spot in the garden, and when the hyacinths are out of bloom, to plant the bed over with verbenas.

6. It is recommended that the gardener be provided with the following implements:

(1) An Excelsior weeder.

(2) A cane-weeding gouge.

(3) A Henderson sod perforator.

7. It is further recommended, that an appropriation be made of \$25 for the purchase of boxes, to be used by the gardener for cut flowers, and for the purchase of bulbs.

8. The Box never looked so well, owing to the plants having been taken out that used up the sap. More roses have been ordered, which we hope will be planted success-

fully, and some shrubs planted in a half circle to hide the wall and materials that have to be used during the winter in the rear of servants' quarters; walks and roadway back of the quarters to be marked out and privet hedges on each side; roses planted in the greenhouse to take away the bare look when the ferns are taken out.

AMY TOWNSEND, Acting Chairman.  
 GEORGIA P. WILDER,  
 FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
 HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,  
 S. R. VAN RENSSELAER.

Instructions to Mr. Dodge, Superintendent, from the Garden and Greenhouse Committee:

The Superintendent is instructed to raise the elevation of the old tank ten feet, and at the same time, to raise the roof of the Palm House. All the details of these improvements are left to the judgment of the Regent.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
 GEORGIA P. A. WILDER.  
 FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
 HARRIET C. COMEGYS,  
 S. R. VAN RENSSELAER,  
 AMY TOWNSEND.

#### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS, TREES AND SHRUBS.**

Your Committee, after a thorough examination of the grounds with the Superintendent, begs leave to offer the following suggestions for the action of Council:

That the road leading from the railroad gate to the gate of the grounds, be so repaired as to be rendered serviceable for winter use, when the mud is so deep as to make this road almost impassable. There should be a foundation of large stones, covered by crushed stone, with a surface of loam; the surface clay being first removed to a depth of eight inches. Cost, \$500.

A brick pavement laid from the old tomb steps to the road; the walk is now often muddy and unsightly. Cost, \$70.

Also, a brick walk to both closets. Cost, \$80. A very necessary improvement.

The splendid gift from the Vice Regent for California, of the sea wall, now completed, which adds so materially to the preservation of Mount Vernon, as well as to its beauty, has now to be filled in back of the sea wall, to the hill side. This grading must be done by a dredging machine, taking the mud from the river and throwing it over the sea wall. The result of this treatment is shown in the fine grading near the wharf. Cost, \$1,500.

Your Committee would recommend the planting of lilacs, euonymous, laurel, and wild azaleas in the depression of land formed by the intersection of the ravines near the road, and between tomb and wharf.

Also, that the bare spots on lawns should be covered with sod.

Your Committee find the grounds greatly improved by the trimming of trees and shrubs, the removal of small, self-sown trees and the efforts made to save old trees.

For all this work requiring great discretion and care, all thanks are due our Superintendent, who has discharged this extra duty with the faithfulness and judgment that mark all his work.

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON,  
Acting Chairman,

AMY TOWNSEND,  
IDA A RICHARDSON.

#### REPORT OF THE FARM.

The Committee is not satisfied with the condition of the farm and the cattle. They recommend a practical farmer and his wife be engaged, at a salary not over \$45 a month, with a house. The farmer to take entire charge of the farm,

crops and cattle. The wife to be responsible for the care of the milk, the care of pans, vessels, etc., and the spring house.

The report of the condition of the crops on the farm has been given by the Superintendent.

The Committee will recommend to the Superintendent, the planting of crops, care of cattle, etc.

The Committee would suggest that, in time, if possible, it would be advisable to introduce Potomac water upon the grounds, for the free use of stock, gardens, and especially the grass, as well as the safety of the mansion.

They ask for no appropriation this year, but only urge better cultivation of the fields and greater care of the cattle.

The Committee takes great pleasure in announcing the gift of a pair of young mules, from the Vice Regent of Kentucky, as a need felt for a long time at Mount Vernon.

ELLEN WALN HARRISON,  
Acting Chairman,  
MARY YEATMAN WEBB.

#### REPORT OF KITCHEN GARDEN COMMITTEE.

The garden though much improved in appearance, still needs much labor and cultivation to produce good results.

The Committee respectfully suggests that brick or stone steps be built on the terraces, in time, to take the place of the wooden ones there now.

The Committee also suggests the ground to be heavily top-dressed; that the top soil be dug out to the depth of six inches, mixing the soil with lime and ashes, and thus improving somewhat its condition.

The fig trees are all in good condition and quite full of fruit.

ELLEN WALN HARRISON, Chairman,  
AMY TOWNSEND,  
HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS.

No reports from Press, Parliamentary Rules, or Index Committees.

## GARDENER'S REPORT.

LADIES:

I herewith submit report of Greenhouse and Garden for the year ending April 30, 1902:

Total receipts.....	\$784 85
Expenditures .....	18 10
	<hr/>
	\$766 75

As roses, to reach perfection must be planted under glass, not later than June 1st and, as the plumbers did not complete their work until late, and as I was unable to get my plants in before September, I put in a batch, confident there would be little accomplished. I finally determined it would be folly to waste time and space with every chance against cutting a hundred blossoms all winter. So, I took roses out and substituted other flowers. The result amply rewarded my judgment, for, with nearly twelve thousand people less, I am able to report \$59.70 over last year's receipts.

I have removed plants from boxwood hedges, relaid grass borders, transplanted crape myrtles, etc., and carried out instructions of my committee, in every detail.

Hoping that my efforts may meet your approval, I am

Very respectfully,

FRANKLIN A. WHELAN.

Mount Vernon, Va., May 7, 1902.

## LIST OF COMMITTEES.

### FINANCE.

Mrs. Ball, Chairman; Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Rathbone.

### MANSION.

Mrs. Barnes, Chairman; Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Goldsborough, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Ames.

### TOMB.

Mrs. Walker, Chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Goldsborough, Mrs. Maxey.

### RELICS.

Mrs. Ball, Chairman; Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Winder, Mrs. Hearst.

### GROUNDS AND SHRUBS.

Mrs. Leiter, Chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Richardson.

### FARM.

Mrs. Hearst, Chairman; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Wilde, Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Barret.

### PRESS.

Mrs. Hill, Chairman; Mrs. Winder, Miss Longfellow.

### LIBRARY.

Miss Longfellow, Chairman; Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Johnston.

### GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE.

Mrs. Rathbone, Chairman; Mrs. Leiter, Mrs. Wilder, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Maxey, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

### RECORDS.

Miss Comegys, Chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Ward.

### FURNITURE.

Mrs. Ames, Chairman; Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Graham, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Harrison.

### PARLIAMENTARY RULES.

Mrs. Sweat, Chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Goldsborough, Mrs. Manderson.

### INDEX

Mrs. Flandrau, Chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Richardson.

### BY-LAWS.

Mrs. Richardson, Chairman; Mrs. Winder, Mrs. Ames.

### KITCHEN GARDEN.

Mrs. Harrison, Chairman; Miss Townsend, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.



Letter received from:—

BROADMOOR, CROWTHORNE, BERKS, ENGLAND,  
May 2, 1902.

Dear Sir—I have an engraving view of Mount Vernon, by G. I. Parkyns, I understand of about 1790, which I would gladly send you to be kept in the general collection there, if it be thought worth while or of sufficient interest for you to send me your proper address, and to acknowledge receipt. So doing, you will oblige a fellow countryman and

Yours very truly, W. C. MINOR.

The following letter was received after adjournment of Council:

MRS. J. M. WARD, SECRETARY MOUNT VERNON ASSOCIATION:

Dear Madam—The view of Mount Vernon engraved by G. I. Parkyns has just been addressed, as you were good enough to inform me; and, perhaps, you will not regret if I here add a fragment of contemporary text that is not likely to be known and may, possibly, contain information to others, as it did to me, about the place.

Allow me to quote a page from the "Voyages to Various Parts of the World, and Remarks by John Willock, Mariner, Penwith," giving an account of his visit to Mount Vernon. This visit appears to have been made about 1784, and the book itself, though without date, to have been printed about 1789, or, perhaps, 1790:

"Seven miles above this, stands the seat of the great Mr. Washington, at a little distance from the Potommack. It is seated on a rising ground, having an easy descent to the river, and is surrounded by groves of trees, delightful gardens and enchanting walks; and furnishes a beautiful object from the river. To the character of the proprietor, whose merits command the admiration of a world, my slender tribute of praise can add nothing. If it be true, however, what some author says, that a man's servants, and near neighbors, are best qualified to give his real character, his will suffer nothing from being brought to the test; for General Washington at the head of his army, or President Washinton at the head of the American Congress, never commanded, in either department, the admiration of the world, in a greater degree, than did Farmer Washington on the banks of the Potommack, the love and admiration of his neighbors and dependants.

"At the foot of an avenue, which leads from the house to the river, is erected a fort, defended by twelve pieces of brass canon. This, during the war, was manned by the general's own negroes, who had been carefully trained for the purpose."

Speaking for myself alone, I do not recall any traces of this fort—

that, indeed, I did not look for—on the Mount Vernon side of the thing though its existence and remains may be well known to others, my quotation possesses no special value. But of this I would be informed.

My own first visit was about 1856, when we went down on a steamboat, and again the last year of the war—in '65—riding down land, and a picnic occasion or two, after. So you will perceive the years are approaching the psalmist's allowance now, and you may pardon me if I have wearied you by needless quotation upon this subject.

With reciprocal good wishes to the Society.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

W. C. Minor

Broadmoor, Crowthorne, Berks, Eng., May 31, 1902.

Governor Montague, of Virginia, appointed as a list of visitors for 1902, the following named gentlemen:

Col. Archer Anderson, Richmond, Va.,

Mr. L. C. Berkeley, Danville, Va.,

Mr. W. H. White, Norfolk, Va.,

Mr. Gardner L. Boothe, Alexandria, Va.,

Mr. A. Moore, Berryville, Va.,

The governor was prevented from coming by important business, and but three of the members of the list were present. These were:

Col. Archer Anderson, Mr. W. H. White, Mr. Gardner L. Boothe. The two former were accompanied by wives, who, together with Mrs. Montague and a few of the Board of Regents took luncheon at 2 p. m. The visitors then made a tour of the grounds and Council went into session.

The examination of the West Quarters by the Student and Vice Regents of West Virginia and Pennsylvania resulted in the decision to make but one room is given to the Vice Regent of West Virginia.

Mrs. Campbell, of Ohio, feels compelled to resign the Vice Regency of that state, and in a letter to the Regent she says:

"May I ask you to say for me, the reluctant 'Good-bye,' to

ed to send, to the Regents who are with you. It is a keen regret I have been so inefficient, but you may forget that, and will believe when I say, that my days spent at Mount Vernon are all marked a white stone."

#### REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MEMORIAL TO THE FOUNDER.

The committee read the memorial prepared by them during the past year which was accepted and ordered printed for free distribution. This is to mark the fiftieth year since the first appeal was made by Miss A. P. Cunningham to the women of America to buy and preserve the home of George Washington at Mount Vernon. Her own letters describing the struggles and difficulties attending the enterprise, are appended and will correct the many erroneous impressions as to the formation, status, object, etc., of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

The Regent and several ladies attended service, on Sunday, at the old historic church at Pohick. A committee of the Regent and four Vice Regents remained to meet Mr. Schot, the head of the Department of Forestry, on Monday, May 19.

Council of 1902 adjourned Saturday, May 17, at 3:30 p. m. to meet the second Thursday of May, 1903.

JENNIE MEEKER WARD,  
Secretary of Mount Vernon Association  
and Vice Regent for Kansas.

## IN MEMORIAM.

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**Mrs. Martha Mitchell, Vice Regent for Wisconsin.**

*Ladies of the Mount Vernon Association:*

Since our last Council our senior Vice Regent has been gathered to her rest full of years and honors. The good she has done lives after her, the friends she has left behind carry her in their hearts and the many she has blessed with her beneficence shed grateful tears over her grave.

To this Association especially belongs the right to remember her with reverent affection; to extol her virtues; to record her unostentatious generosity. She has been identified with it from its earliest days; she was faithful to its interests through good and through evil report. She was wise and efficient as an official; dignified and simple in her social relations; affectionate and true in those closer friendships which grew up as the years brought us all to this increasingly sacred meeting place.

In offering our tribute to Mrs. Mitchell as a Vice Regent, we must once more refer to our long past but never-to-be-forgotten days of storm and stress. Her steadfast, cool and kindly judgment, her prudent suggestions and unfaltering courage were invaluable in our Councils. Her strong personal friendship for our first Regent enabled her to offer the best advice and that advice was as warm hearted as it was practical and discreet. I had the happiness, through all that period, of frequent correspondence with her over the perplexing affairs of the Association, and well remember her efforts to guide our bark through the raging waters.

In our days of financial need she was liberal in giving; in our still graver troubles her counsel was even more important and effectual. We owe her a debt of gratitude which can only be repaid by holding her memory long and

well in our hearts and transmitting it with honorable mention to her and our successors.

Mrs. Mitchell was appointed Vice Regent for Wisconsin in 1858 and for many years was an active officer in that state. On giving up her residence there she offered her resignation, but Council unanimously conferred upon her the high distinction of honorary member of the Board, which position she held until her death.

Born among the green hills of New England, spending her married life in the Great West, she came in her old age to reside permanently in the sunny southern home she had made beautiful. The soft climate prolonged her life to the age of eighty-four. She fell asleep in death amid the flowers she had tended with loving care.

May "those immortal gardens

Where angels walk and seraphs are the wardens"

open wide, their gates at her coming and those celestial guardians welcome one more pure spirit to everlasting peace.

MARGARET J. M. SWEAT,

Vice Regent for Maine.

**Mrs. Baker, Vice Regent for Florida.**

When I learned of the death of our dear sister and colleague, Mrs. Baker, I recalled the prophetic sadness with which she made her farewell to us on her last visit to Mount Vernon. She said to me, "I feel it is my last visit to the dear spot, and have been to take the last fond look at the tomb and the dear old garden, and have hid the remembrance of all in my heart of hearts—never to be forgotten." With tears in her eyes and a sad smile on her face she passed out from us. The memory of her genial manner, her poetic sensibilities, her enthusiastic love for the place and her cheery laugh will long survive her.

Each year, as we walked together over the grounds, she opened her heart to me, and I saw the intense and poetic love

of Nature, the kindness to human frailties, generous qualities of heart and mind, and I learned to love and admire her for the true nobility of soul and high-toned principles, which made her a most admirable character.

Forced by ill health to seek another climate than Florida, with only the memory of her once happy and hospitable home—now in ashes—she came, a weary exile to the mountains of North Carolina, where, surrounded by her loved ones, she calmly awaited the summons to “come up higher” and exchange the cares and sorrows of earth for the joys of heaven.

L. H. WALKER,  
Vice Regent for North Carolina.

## Complete List of All Officers of Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

MISS ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA,

FOUNDER AND FIRST REGENT, 1853-1873

Resigned 1873; Died 1874.

### VICE REGENTS.

1858

1. Mrs. Anna Cora Ogden Ritchie, resigned 1866..... Virginia
2. Mrs. Alice H. Dickinson, resigned 1859..... North Carolina
3. Mrs. Philoclea Edgeworth Eve, died 1889..... Georgia
4. Mrs. Octavia Walton Le Vert, died 1866..... Alabama
5. Mrs. Catherine A. McWillie, died 1873..... Mississippi
6. Mrs. Margaretta S. Morse, resigned 1873; died 1895..... Louisiana
7. Mrs. Mary Rutledge Fogg, died..... Tennessee
8. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Walton, resigned 1860..... Missouri
9. Miss Mary Morris Hamilton, died 1876..... New York
10. Mrs. Louisa Ingersoll Greenough, resigned 1865..... Massachusetts
11. Mrs. Abba Isabella Little, resigned 1863..... Maine
12. Mrs. Catherine Willis Murat, died 1867..... Florida
13. Mrs. Mary Boott Goodrich, resigned 1861, app. 1857.... Connecticut
14. Miss Phebe Ann Ogden, died 1867..... New Jersey
15. Mrs. Alice Key Pendleton, resigned 1863; died 1885..... Ohio
16. Mrs. Abby Wheaton Chace, died 1892..... Rhode Island
17. Mrs. Jane Maria Van Antwerp, died..... Iowa
18. Mrs. Margaret Ann Comegys, died 1888..... Delaware
19. Mrs. Hanna Blake Farnsworth, died 1879..... Michigan
20. Mrs. Sarah King Hale, resigned 1861..... New Hampshire
21. Mrs. Martha Mitchell, died 1902..... Wisconsin
22. Mrs. Rosa Vertner Johnson, died..... Kentucky

1859

23. Mrs. Elizabeth Willard Barry, died 1884..... Illinois
24. Mrs. Sarah J. Sibley, died 1869..... Minnesota
25. Mrs. Mary Pepperell Jarvis Cut's, resigned 1878.... Vermont
26. Miss Lily Lytle Macalester, died 1891..... Pennsylvania
27. Mrs. Magdalen G. Blanding, resigned 1883..... California
28. Mrs. Harriet V. Fitch, died 1880..... Indiana
29. Mrs. Sarah H. Johnson, died 1866..... Arkansas
30. Mrs. Anne Lucas Hunt, died 1878; app. 1860..... Missouri
31. Mrs. Letitia Harper Walker..... North Carolina

1860

32. Mrs. Mary Chestnut, died 1861..... South Carolina

1866

33. Mrs. Margaret J. M. Sweat..... Maine
34. Miss Emily L. Harper, died 1891..... Maryland
35. Mrs. Lucy H. Pickens, died August, 1899..... South Carolina
36. Mrs. M. E. Hickman, resigned 1867..... Nevada

37. Mrs. M. A. Stearns, resigned 1872.....New Hampshire  
 38. Mrs. Emily R. M. Hewson, resigned 1866.....Ohio  
 39. Miss Ella Hutchins, resigned 1866.....Texas

## 1867

40. Mrs. Janet M. C. Riggs, resigned 1868.....District of Columbia  
 41. Mrs. Marie Brooks, resigned 1876.....New York  
 42. Mrs. Matilda W. Emory, resigned 1873.....District of Columbia  
 43. Mrs. Nancy Wade Halstead, died 1891.....New Jersey

## 1868

44. Mrs. Nannie C. Yulee, died 1884; app 1868.....Florida

## 1870

45. Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson.....Connecticut  
 46. Mrs. Betsy C. Mason, died 1873.....Virginia  
 47. Mrs. A. P. Dillon, resigned 1874; died 1898.....Iowa  
 48. Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, died 1898.....West Virginia

## 1872

49. Mrs. William Balfour, resigned 1875.....Mississippi  
 50. Mrs. Mary T. Barnes.....District of Columbia  
 51. Mrs. David Urquhart, resigned 1876.....Louisiana  
 52. Mrs. M. E. Maverick, resigned 1873.....Texas  
 53. Mrs. C. L. Scott, resigned 1877.....Arkansas  
 This was the last appointment of Miss Cunningham, First Regent.

## MRS. LILY L. M. BERGHMAN,

SECOND REGENT, 1874-1891.

Died 1891.

## VICE REGENTS.

## 1874

54. Mrs. Emma Reed Ball.....Virginia  
 55. Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, died 1883.....Tennessee

## 1875

56. Mrs. Lily L. Broadwell, died 1890.....Ohio  
 57. Mrs. John P. Jones.....Nevada

## 1876

58. Mrs. Jennie Meeker Ward.....Kansas  
 59. Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer.....New York

## 1878

60. Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, resigned 1880.....Virginia

## 1879

61. Miss Alice Longfellow.....Massachusetts  
 62. Mrs. Robert Campbell, died 1882.....Missouri

## 1880

63. Mrs. Ida A. Richardson.....Louisiana

## 1882

64. Mrs. Ella S. Herbert, died 1884.....Alabama



## 1885

- 65. Mrs. Elizabeth B Adams Rathbone ..... Michigan
- 66. Mrs Mary T. Leiter..... Illinois
- 67. Mrs Janet De Kay King, died 1896..... Vermont
- 68. Mrs. Eliza Woodward, died 1897..... Kentucky

## 1888

- 69. Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys..... Delaware
- 70. Mrs. Fannie Gilchrist Baker, died 1901 ..... Florida

## 1889

- 71. Mrs. Alice Hill..... Colorado
- 72. Mrs Rebecca B. Flandrau..... Minnesota
- 73. Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst..... California

## 1890

- 74. Mrs. A. R. Winder..... New Hampshire

## 1891

- 75. Mrs. Georgia Page Wilder..... Georgia
- This was the last nomination of Mrs. Lily Macalester Laughton,  
Second Regent (Madame Berghman).

## MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND,

## THIRD REGENT.

## VICE REGENTS.

## 1893

- 76. Mrs George R. Goldsborough..... Maryland
- 77. Mrs. J. Dundas Lippincott, died 1894..... Pennsylvania
- 78. Miss Mary Lloyd Pendleton, resigned 1897..... Ohio
- 79. Mrs. Philip Schuyler, resigned 1891. .... New York
- 80. Mrs. Christine Blair Graham..... Missouri
- 81. Mrs Frances S. Conover..... New Jersey
- 82. Mrs. Mary Polk Yeatman Webb..... Tennessee

## 1893-94

- 83. Miss Lelia Herbert, died 1897..... Alabama

## 1895

- 84. Mrs. Robert H. Clarkson, resigned 1900; died 1892..... Nebraska
- 85. Mrs. William Ames..... Rhode Island
- 86. Miss Amy Townsend..... New York

## 1896

- 87. Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison..... Pennsylvania
- 88. Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey..... Texas

## 1898

- 89. Mrs. James E. Campbell, resigned 1902..... Ohio

## 1901

- 90. Mrs. R. D. Johnston..... Alabama
- 91. Mrs. C. F. Manderson..... Nebraska
- 92. Mrs. E. Van Rensselaer..... West Virginia

## 1902

- 93. Mrs. J. J. Pringle..... South Carolina
- 94. Mrs. William F. Barret..... Kentucky
- 95. Mrs. Charles Denby..... Indiana



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**Annual Report**  
**of the**  
**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association**  
**of the Union**

**1903**



**OTTAWA REPUBLIC PRINT.**  
**OTTAWA, KANS.**





# OFFICERS

OF THE

## Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union

### REGENT.

MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND.

Winter Address. 127 E. 72nd St., New York City.

Summer, Box 147 Southampton, L. I., Care Thos. Barber, Esq.

### VICE REGENTS.

MRS. LETITIA H. WALKER, North Carolina.

MRS. MARY T. BARNES, Washington, D. C.

MRS. MARGARET J. M. SWEAT, Maine.

MRS. S. E. JOHNSON HUDSON, Connecticut.

MRS. EMMA R. BALL, Virginia.

MISS ALICE M. LONGFELLOW, Massachusetts.

MRS. JENNIE MEEKER WARD, Kansas.

MRS. IDA A. RICHARDSON, Louisiana.

MRS. ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Michigan.

MRS. MARY T. LEITER, Illinois.

MRS. ALICE H. HILL, Colorado.

MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, Delaware.

MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST, California.

MRS. REBECCA B. FLANDRAU, Minnesota.

MRS. A. R. WINDER, New Hampshire.

MRS. GEORGIA P. WILDER, Georgia.

MRS. GEORGE R. GOLDSBOROUGH, Maryland.

MRS. HELEN FIELD CONOVER, New Jersey.

MRS. CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM, Missouri.

MRS. MARY YEATMAN WEBB, Tennessee.

MRS. WM. AMES, Rhode Island.

MISS AMY TOWNSEND, New York.

MRS. CHAS. C. HARRISON, Pennsylvania.

MRS. FRANCES MAXEY, Texas.

Mount Vernon Ladies' Assoc. 1-29-12 g

MRS. ROBERT D. JOHNSTON, Alabama.  
 MRS. CHAS. F. MANDERSON, Nebraska.  
 MRS. EUGENE VAN RENSSELAER, West Virginia.  
 MRS. JOHN JULIUS PRINGLE, South Carolina.  
 MRS. WM. F. BARRET, Kentucky.  
 MRS. CHAS. DENBY, Indiana.

SECRETARY.

MRS. JENNIE MEEKER WARD, Ottawa, Kan.

TREASURER.

MR. E. FRANCIS RIGGS, Washington, D. C.

RESIDENT SUPERINTENDENT.

MR. HARRISON H. DODGE, Mt. Vernon on Potomac, Va.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT.

MR. JAMES YOUNG, Mt. Vernon on Potomac, Va.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER, U. S. Supreme Court, Washington, D. C.  
 MR. JAMES CARTER, 277 Lexington Ave., New York.

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union**  
**HELD AT**  
**Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Fairfax County, Va.,**  
**MAY 1903**

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**Ladies present:**

Mrs. Justine V. R. Townsend, Regent.  
Mrs. Walker, Vice Regent for North Carolina.  
Mrs. Hudson, Vice Regent for Connecticut,  
Mrs. Sweat, Vice Regent for Maine.  
Mrs. Ball, Vice Regent for Virginia.  
Mrs. Ward, Vice Regent for Kansas.  
Miss Longfellow, Vice Regent for Massachusetts.  
Mrs. Richardson, Vice Regent for Louisiana.  
Mrs. Rathbone, Vice Regent for Michigan.  
Miss Comegys, Vice Regent for Delaware.  
Mrs. Conover, Vice Regent for New Jersey.  
Mrs. Graham, Vice Regent for Missouri.  
Mrs. Ames, Vice Regent for Rhode Island.  
Mrs. Harrison, Vice Regent for Pennsylvania.  
Mrs. Maxey, Vice Regent for Texas.  
Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Vice Regent for West Virginia.  
Mrs. Manderson, Vice Regent for Nebraska.  
Mrs. Pringle, Vice Regent for South Carolina.  
Mrs. Barret, Vice Regent for Kentucky.  
Mrs. Johnston, Vice Regent for Alabama.  
Mrs. Wilder, Vice Regent for Georgia.  
Mrs. Leiter, Vice Regent for Illinois.  
Mrs. Flandrau, Vice Regent for Minnesota.  
Mrs. Denby, Vice Regent for Indiana.

The Annual Report of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, having charge of the Home and Tomb of Washington, is again presented to the public through the reports of its officers and committees, as given to the Council of May 14 to 21, 1903.

## INTRODUCTORY.

In presenting to the public, the proceedings of the Annual Council in this the fiftieth year of the Association's history, it is with great gratification that we claim the intention of the founder and early supporters of the enterprise has been so thoroughly carried out.

The home is carefully kept from decay; the gardens which Washington planned and planted, the lawns he laid out, the tomb he ordered, are all as he arranged for them. The Quarters, which have been rebuilt, are on plans which he drew; the trees which have died are replaced by trees from his list; and that the interest in the place does not flag, is shown by the large number of visitors of the past year. Of course this is exceptional, as the Grand Army again made its pilgrimage to Washington, but the average number year by year justifies the assumption that "Mount Vernon grows more and more beloved as the years pass over it."

## **REGENT'S REPORT.**

**DEAR LADIES:**

We meet at this sacred home, full of gratitude and joy that our circle has remained unbroken, and that some of our dear sisters are with us today who have been prevented from joining us during the past two or three years.

This a memorable year that we are celebrating this week. Fifty years ago, in 1853, the first inspiration for the preservation of the home and tomb of Washington was conceived by that heroine, whose name should never be permitted to die, in this country of America. Our Dean stands foremost in the rank which can tell the story of the hardships and struggles of those early days. The wildest flights of imagination could never have reached the records of its fiftieth birthday commemoration. The record of its visitors was 181,928, the largest record Mount Vernon has ever had. The revenue being \$82,982.

We have been able to carry out all the suggestions of last Council. Serious unforeseen events have occurred in the land slides of the deer park, which as we supposed, were engineered satisfactorily, but another slide occurred; experts were called in and by deflecting the course, danger to the sea wall was averted. It was, doubtless, for this reason that Washington changed the position of the tomb, for it is known that these land slides occurred upon this estate.

The raising of the roof of the palm house has been attended to, according to your instructions; the two tanks have been raised twelve feet above the former level, but are not an eye-sore, being embodied, as it were, in the peak of the roof.

The tomb is much improved by the removal of the glazed bricks, which required the work of experts. The bricks were in a crumbling, disintegrated condition. The result, however, is most satisfactory.

The large amount brought into our treasury has permitted us to make some experiments in conquering our enemies—those pests of wire grass, in all its forms. No pains have been spared by our Superintendent to obtain information as regards this grass enemy. On every side, from the highest scientists, information has been obtained. The Superintendent of the Soldier's Home was asked how he managed to always have a beautiful lawn. "By continued resodding" was his reply; and this seems to have been the case with all who have been consulted. The most successful effort of which I have heard is that recounted to me by our valued Vice-Regent from Georgia. I, at once, forwarded her experience to our Superintendent who informed me that he, also, had lately learned of a successful venture; but it was questioned whether the soil of the far South and that of Virginia would produce similar effects. One of the most celebrated gardeners attempted to produce in Washington, D. C., the fine blue grass of Kentucky, but found it impracticable. All I can say is that no pains have been spared, nor money for fertilizers; and as a resource of nature, it was decided that a flock of sheep might benefit the lawn. I have not yet learned the result; but, at any rate, my long wished for hope of seeing sheep and lambs at Mount Vernon has been gratified. It was for that reason that New York asked for the restoration of the "Haha" fence.

Wood has been secured to quite an amount from the woods of Mount Vernon, which process has increased the beauty of the place, as well as being an economic move during the dearth of coal.

The president of the Pennsylvania Road has favored Mount Vernon by sending many tons of coal for the necessary use of the greenhouse, etc. This heavy purchase has added much to our expenses, as also, the freight sent by cars.

All minor details will be given in the Superintendent's report, as to tons, cartage, etc.

The beautiful memorial of Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham (the founder of this grand work of the preservation of the home and tomb of Washington) has been completed and published and is now before the people—free to all lovers of the great Washington.

The tablet committee has also raised a choice and attractive memorial to Miss Cunningham, which is to be placed beneath the beautiful portrait that adorns the South Carolina room, of which state Miss Cunningham was a resident. My first visit here was made in October, when the woods and the rich, hardy flowers were things of beauty. Rarely have I seen the forest woods so magnificent in coloring, and I longed to have my Mount Vernon sisters share this enjoyment with me; and as I gazed over the place and viewed the grand work of the conversion of the dismal swamp into a green and smiling pasture field, and the pier with its attractive and most useful building, as well as the sea wall, just being completed, and the image of our western benefactress came before me, my thoughts glided over time and I spent a few moments with the founder of this great work, Miss Cunningham, and I wondered what she thought of the two quarters for servants, the old spinning house, the deer park, the summer house—the mansion itself—in perfect order, etc. My little romance was ended by the screech of the electric cars and I had to return to every-day thought and life.

As regards our finances, the sum of \$10,000 was invested with Mr. McGill—his last investment was due and paid in, but re-invested with an additional \$10,000 at 4 per cent for ten years, Mr. Riggs believing that in 1913 a 4 per cent investment will be rare. The great demand for milk necessitated the purchase of another cow, and our Superintendent asked for permission to purchase one, which, of course, was given.

Our steamboat stopped running January 3rd, 1903, and resumed March 1st.



The health of Mount Vernon seems to improve yearly and there has been but little illness.

Of our superintendent, I can speak highly; his attention to his duties in every department, the several committees will judge for themselves. The Regent is not always the best guide, but it strikes me that Mount Vernon has never presented a more attractive appearance, especially when we bear in mind that ten days ago there was frost lying over these grounds. Our assistant superintendent, Mr. Young, is, as ever, active and energetic and fulfills all his duties most efficiently during the absence of our superintendent.

Our gardener has been undergoing great sorrow in the critical illness of his daughter, whose life was supposed to be fast ebbing away. He has, however, been at his post, diligently carrying out the additional work given him at last Council—the superintendence of the kitchen garden.

The employees, Mr. and Mrs. Vickers, have done good work, and the wife is always hard working and faithful. In a word, all is going on well. A new cook has added much to the comfort of all.

In closing my report, I ask for all of us, God's choice blessings and that, if he sees fit, we may all meet with renewed health, at our next Council, May 10th, 1904.

Ever yours with sincere affection,

JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND.

May, 1903.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.**

**TO THE REGENT AND VICE REGENTS OF THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION:**

**LADIES:** It is again my great privilege and honor to appear before you and render an account of what has transpired at Mount Vernon since your last Council.

The fiscal year ending April 30, 1903, was the "banner year" in point of the number of visitors. Our books record 131,928 as having contributed their quota in the way of entrance fees.

The extraordinary increase over former years was due to the Grand Army of the Republic encampment at Washington last October, during which month alone over 51,000 visitors came to Mount Vernon.

Every precaution was taken to protect the buildings and grounds from undue wear and tear when the great crowds were present.

The Mansion floors and the tiling of East Portico were covered with cocoa matting, the soft sandstone steps and approaches to the mansion were boarded over, as also the approaches to the family kitchen and spinning house. Extra guards were stationed so as to prevent over crowding and to direct the visitors to the various points of interest.

I have the satisfaction of reporting that no accidents occurred.

While there has been no evidence of serious injury to the buildings due to this unusual strain on floor timbers, it must be borne in mind that every year materially lessens their strength. The daily vibration and jar causes settlement, and the firing of heavy guns at the forts has the tendency to increase this effect.

Before proceeding with a general recital of affairs, I wish to say that all the instructions for my guidance,

decided upon at last Council, had my best attention and—with certain exceptions hereinafter explained—were duly accomplished.

#### MACADAM ROAD.

*Exception No. 1.* The project of resurfacing the road between North Lodge Gate and gateway at west end of Bowling Green was not carried into effect. Council decided that a macadam surface should be constructed and appropriated \$500 therefor, basing the calculations upon estimates prepared by a government engineer for similar work at Fort Hunt, near Mount Vernon. Immediately after Council I invited responsible contractors to bid on the work here, but their prices greatly exceeded the sum appropriated, and the Regent directed another effort to reach more satisfactory conclusions. Prices on road work advanced rather than receded, and no where could I obtain a bid within our limit. As a compromise plan, in order to reduce cost, I suggested the following: To remove, by grading, eight inches of present clay surface, apply four inches of broken stone as a base or drainage course, roll it thoroughly with a heavy roller, and cover with four or five inches of red clay gravel. Such a surface when compactly rolled should make an excellent road which, in appearance, would conform to the other roads here, but far more serviceable.

A liberal estimate of cost to carry out such a plan brings it within the sum voted. The Regent approved the plan, but the owner of the only available gravel pit near here was in Europe and consent to use his material was not obtained until January, when it was too late to do road work. This arrangement is still available, however, and can be executed this summer if Council decides in its favor.

#### PALM HOUSE.

*Exception No. 2.* The scheme of increasing the height

of the palm house roof to what—from an old picture—appeared to be its original form, was for certain reasons postponed until this spring. A temporary shelter was built for the palms and the work of reconstruction was begun in March, but rainy weather delayed the completion. The water tanks were successfully elevated and occupy positions in the peak of present roof, nearly twelve feet higher than they were before, thus greatly benefitting the water pressure for garden use as well as increasing the efficiency of the hot water service. The additional head room gained in this improvement will provide better chances for the growing palms.

#### SILK PORTRAIT OF WASHINGTON.

*Exception No. 3.* The woven silk portrait of Washington was to be reframed, but decision was not reached as to most appropriate form.

The Regent then directed a postponement of this order.

#### FILLING BACK OF SEA WALL.

*Exception No. 4.* After laying the finishing stretch of coping (1175 feet) on the sea wall, in June last, I made arrangements with the owner of the only hydraulic machinery within reach to fill the space between the wall and natural embankment with mud dredged from the river.

Unexpected difficulty was encountered in the refractory character of the mud and a change of machinery was found imperative. An attempt made to lift the material over by means of a boom dredge was not satisfactory. A suitably equipped pump dredge is now being made to continue this work.

#### SEA WALL.

The completion of the sea wall, above alluded to, was accomplished last June and I take occasion to refer briefly to the history of this very important work. It was under-

taken in 1894, carried on from year to year—as you know—and finished in 1902. Its substantial construction of solid masonry has the following dimensions: Height, six feet above low tide; average thickness, two and a half feet, and total length two thousand one hundred and fifty feet. The cost—\$15,378.47—has been defrayed by Mrs. Hearst, Vice Regent for California. When the filling back of the wall is accomplished the river front of Mount Vernon will present a most attractive appearance.

#### NO SMOKING.

The order of Council to post notices at the entrance gates to warn visitors against smoking while at Mount Vernon was promptly put in effect and the rule has been successfully enforced.

#### STATE NAMES.

As directed also by Council all state names were removed from the several rooms of the mansion and new tablets placed over the doors of same giving simply the original designations. The tablet at the North Lodge gate was changed as requested by the Vice Regent for Texas.

#### TOMB.

The vestibule of the Tomb was paved with square tiles of Indiana limestone, which very nearly accords, in appearance of age, with the sarcophagi. The glaring red paint which for many years had disfigured the brick facade of the Tomb, was removed as far as possible. It was then found that the old mortar joints were defective and I caused the entire front to be repointed with cement. Defective joints in other parts of the walls then received attention. To carry off the water from the roof of the vestibule new eave gutters and spouting were supplied. The ivy planted a year ago within the walled enclosure of the tomb shows now a

vigorous growth and it should not be long in covering the brick coping.

The usual occasions for decorating the tomb were appropriately observed.

Floral or evergreen tributes were received as follows:

May 22. Count and Countess Rochambeau, Count Lafayette, and their distinguished suite brought a handsome wreath and planted a memorial tree. For this ceremonial I procured a maple from Yorktown.

May 30. National Decoration Day—a large wreath of roses from the White House.

Oct. 14. The Crown Prince of Siam and his suite placed in the Tomb two rich floral designs.

Nov. 4. Masons from the Washington - Alexandria Lodge celebrated, by floral tribute, the 150th anniversary of Washington's joining their order.

Dec. 14. Masons representing the lodges of Fredericksburg and Alexandria observed the anniversary of Washington's death by placing on his sarcophagus flowers and evergreens.

Feb. 28. The Society of Children of the American Revolution brought an evergreen wreath.

#### GROUNDS.

After the presence of the great crowds last autumn considerable work was necessary to overcome the unusually severe wear and tear on the grounds, walks and roads. Indeed the blemishes are not yet completely effaced. The areas of turf most worn have been resodded, roads and walks graded, but on the hillside paths where the gravel is constantly shifting, and the harshness of the surface causes visitors to walk by preference on the adjacent turf, thereby wearing it away, it seems impossible to preserve a tidy appearance. Some rigid surface, such as brick, is really

essential, and in time would save the expense of original tlay, beside affording the comfort which the increasing level demands. This brings me to the point of urging again, as I did last year, the especial importance of brick pavements leading from the main walks to the ends of the east portico. The mud and grit that is tracked from present walks is rapidly wearing the sand stone steps and tiles of the porch, to say nothing of the floors of the mansion. To better the appearance of the grounds, lilacs and roses were planted near the North Lodge gate, where so many visitors enter, while in the ravine and on the hillside bordering the approach from the wharf, wild azalia, laurel, euonymus, &c., were used to fill an otherwise bare space. Young hardwood trees and shrubs were set out near the flower garden wall. More honeysuckle was transplanted to the hillside near the wharf. This will, in time, cover the ground there and prevent the surface wash.

Two of the trees planted last May—one by Counts Chambeau and Lafayette, the other by the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity—died, as I feared they might, because lifted too late. Others were put in their stead. That for the Frenchmen I obtained (after much trouble) from the battlefield of Yorktown. The Society of Civil Engineers of America visited Mount Vernon early last summer, and as a commemorative of their visit, sent in December a small oak tree with the request that it might be planted in their name. I accordingly gave it a position on the roadside about one hundred yards south of the Tomb, and near where a tree was planted in 1899 for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

The wooded ridge where are the graves of so many of the old servants—opposite the Tomb—has been cleared of leaves and debris and sown with a mixture of seeds which may find lodgment there and be a benefit to that spot.

Transplanting cedar trees to fill gaps in the row near the North Lodge gate was repeated, but I find it most difficult to move successfully even medium sized trees of this variety without the special appliances needed for such work.

A land-slide of alarming force occurred a few weeks ago under the brow of the hill almost in front of the mansion. This freak is the result of the unusual rainfall of last winter causing an outburst of springs from the steep hillside of the deer park where a stratum of quicksand outcrops. I made two attempts by deep ditching to reach the springs which caused the disturbances. For a time the experiment seemed successful and the movement abated. Later, however, there was a fresh outburst at an unexpected point and the best we could do, under the circumstances, was to deflect the course of the sliding mud and make it spread as much as possible when reaching the low ground back of the sea wall.

Eventually it will be necessary, I fear, to thoroughly drain the steep hillside in front of the mansion, by a deep cut to and through the stratum of quicksand and springs, with ample outlets. For this important and necessarily expensive work, skilled engineers should be consulted as to best method of treatment.

#### PAINTING.

What occupied a great part of the employes spare time the past few months was the work of painting. In both the Quarters all the wood finish was thoroughly coated, as was also the outer cornice and gables.

The summer house received two coats of white lead and oil, the shingle roofs of all the larger buildings, except the mansion and barn, were painted with Princes Metallic paint. The lodges, visitor's entrance, and large iron gate were painted inside and out.

The paint of doorways in the mansion required frequent



cleaning, and some of it had to be removed. The room furnished by Maine was repainted, also the family kitchen. The metal roof of implement shed and of Tomb, iron work of Tomb and adjoining enclosures, the roof and balustrade of east portico, also fences and gates, all had attention.

#### WHITEWASHING.

The fences of lanes and barnyard, the brick walls of gardens and lodges, the several cellars and the interior of stables received their periodical application of whitewash. Calcimine was applied to rooms in charge of Virginia, District of Columbia, Florida, West Virginia, Maryland; most of the rooms in the Quarters, the butler's house, watch room, office, kitchen, and gatekeeper's lodge.

#### MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS.

Not to make this report more burdensome with elaborate details I will give briefly a list of what work has had our attention.

The floors, windows, hand rails and stairs in mansion strengthened.

Cracks in plastering in several rooms cut out and filled.

Furniture cleaned, oiled, polished and rearranged.

Iron work of fireplace in Washington's room reset.

Council table lengthened.

Steps of library porch, tiles of east portico and stone steps of mansion repaired.

Temporary board walks laid to mansion approaches during winter to prevent tracking grit from the wet and muddy gravel.

Repaired slate roofs of summer house and deer house.

All roofs and eave gutters examined and strengthened.

Shingle roof of one of the cabins renewed.

West lodge gate and other gates, also fences, repaired.

Cement joints between flagging of stone walk refilled.

Portions of the block paving at wharf relaid.

Temporary buildings on river front removed.  
 Smoke stack and roof of engine house renewed.  
 Couplings of fire hose changed.  
 Cobble stone gutters repaired.  
 All wells cleaned; cistern near mansion strengthened.  
 Pumps and engines overhauled, and new grates provided for heating system.  
 Greenhouse stages were cleared and rebuilt.  
 Hotbed sash painted and reglazed.  
 A partition arranged in Kansas quarters for another sleeping room there.  
 All wire screens removed, repaired and placed in position again.  
 Flagstaff foundation made stronger.  
 The various tools and implements kept in order.

#### LABORERS.

The varied duties of the day laborers, over which I exercised careful supervision, may be summarized as follows:  
 Plowing for and tending crops.  
 Grubbing sprouts on "new ground."  
 Trimming trees and burning brush.  
 They cut wood for fuel, transplanted trees, wild shrubbery, etc.  
 Cleaned swamp ditches, hauled rubbish, mixed and spread compost, shucked corn, stored the hay and fodder, weeded walks, whitewashed fences and walls.  
 Cutting sod for and patching the worn turf, rolling, mowing and raking the lawns, fell to their share.  
 A most laborious task was their work in the mud of the landslide.

#### KITCHEN GARDEN.

The asparagus bed was replanted last autumn and mulched heavily with compost to protect against freezing.

Early this spring wood ashes were applied and the ground spaded and salted. Rhubarb and horseradish roots were planted, as advised, and some currant bushes were set out. Deep ditches were dug to right and left of the gravel walk of lower terrace, drained by a base of broken stone and bricks, the earth filling being carefully enriched as special preparation for peonies, yuccas, etc., afterwards planted there.

The buds of apricots, plums, quinces, peaches and early strawberries were practically destroyed by April frosts. The strawberry beds were doubled in size and the later blooms give promise of good results.

Long spells of rainy and cold weather in April delayed the spring planting. Tomatoes, lettuce, radishes, parsley, etc., raised under glass are fairly well advanced. Raspberries, gooseberries, currants, figs and grape vines have had regular attention.

Stable manure was liberally applied to both flower garden and kitchen garden, and on the latter a dressing of wood ashes and lime.

Flower beds were mulched with rakings from the lawns to prevent severe baking of the soil by hot summer sun, and to conserve moisture.

#### LAWNS.

The perplexities of former years as to the proper treatment of our lawn impelled me to even greater efforts this spring to discover a solution of the problem. I studied conditions at Arlington, the Soldier's Home, the parks in Washington and elsewhere, and wrote to authorities on the subject. Through the courtesy of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, two of their experts—Mr. Galloway, Chief of Bureau of Plant Industry, and Mr. Spillman, Agrostologist—gave much time and thought to the consideration of soil, climate and our facilities for improvement. The net

result of their investigation is rather discouraging and makes it appear almost impossible to maintain here a pure blue grass turf—such as we desire—chiefly because our climatic conditions are more favorable to other grasses—notably Bermuda—the encroachments of which have so increased as to render it likely that it will soon entirely supplant the more attractive grasses. Whatever may be attempted therefore as a remedy would be temporary expediency rather than permanent relief.

What really promises substantial benefit to the turf is the pasturing of sheep thereon. By using a portable wire fence the sheep may be changed to the different lawns as conditions require.

#### FARM.

The spring of 1902 was peculiarly unfavorable throughout this section of the country for timothy, clover and oats. Wheat, corn and millet, however, turned out very well. As evidence of improvement to soil where a green crop was plowed in for enrichment, such soil yielded 28 bushels of wheat to the acre, while on adjacent land not so enriched but otherwise treated the same, the yield was but 16 bushels.

Ten acres of the wheat stubble I plowed and seeded to cow peas and secured a partial crop, which with the corn fodder and millet made sufficient long feed for the stock.

We have now eight acres in wheat (this sown also to clover and timothy.)

Three acres in rye for pasture.

Four acres in clover and timothy.

Five acres in oats.

Four acres in mixed grasses.

Sixteen acres for corn.

Ten acres for cow peas.

Four acres for millet.

Twelve acres for pasture.

The prospect for hay this year promises well.

The wheat, grass lots and lawns were rolled this spring—a large two-horse roller being bought for that purpose. All the barnyard compost was applied to ground to be plowed for corn. There are several acres now open for improvement north of the west vista, where trees wrecked by wind-fall have been cleared away. To pull the stumps and grub the sprouts, attention should be given next autumn.

#### LIVE STOCK.

Of live stock we have five horses, one bull, four milch cows, two heifers, three calves, nineteen deer. The flock of sheep is borrowed for this experiment of lawn improvement. Two undesirable cows were sold last autumn and during the winter one died. A grade cow was purchased this spring.

The pasture range was extended to include three acres of woodland of the Gould lot. The cow stables have been disinfected several times and I have endeavored to keep them thoroughly cleaned. Racks for fodder and hay under the barn yard shed were built.

From Mrs. Manderson, Vice-Regent for Nebraska, were received four Langshan fowls as the beginning of a poultry yard. The number is now increased by recent hatchings.

From the National Zoological Park three young peafowls were purchased to make up the original quota of six. They will not be in full plumage until a year older. The attractive appearance of these birds will scarcely compensate, I fear, for their mischief in the gardens, picking off flowers and budding fruit. The attempt to confine them resulted in the death of two.

#### COAL.

The subject of our supply of coal for last winter was a vexing one because of the strike at the mines, and local

dealers could obtain nothing for us. Through the kindness of the Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania, influential parties were reached and two shipments of coal finally obtained—not our full quota, but enough, by supplementing wood, to carry us through the winter. Fortunately the boilers for our heating system are arranged for both wood and coal. The price of coal is now much lower than can be expected again this year and I advise the placing of our order without delay.

Discovering too that an advance in the price of iron castings was imminent, I purchased a full set of grates for future needs of the hot water plant.

#### MODEL OF MANSION.

An offer was made by three young ladies, the Barkentin sisters, of Martins Ferry, Ohio, to construct for exhibition at the St. Louis Exposition a small model of the Mount Vernon Mansion, said model to be protected by copyright, be exhibited in the name of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, and at the conclusion of the Exposition be forwarded to Mount Vernon as the property of the Association. The proposition involved the Association in no expense and risked none of its interests. The only request was that the name of the modelers should appear with their work.

After due consideration the Regent consented and directed me to furnish the necessary data.

#### AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY.

The American Book Co., of New York, requested photographs of certain objects of interest at Mount Vernon to illustrate their new school history then in preparation. The communication was forwarded, of course, to the Regent, and her conclusion was that for so important a publication, having for its object the enlightenment and instruction of the youth of our country, every reasonable assistance

should be given. To that end I was instructed to have photographs made, as desired, and the prints were duly copyrighted before being forwarded to the publishers.

#### DONATIONS.

Mrs. Goldsborough, Vice-Regent for Maryland, sent \$3.00 for the contingent fund.

Mrs. Hearst, Vice-Regent for California, forwarded \$100.00 to be divided among the servants for Christmas.

From Count Rochambeau were received interesting photographs of portraits of his distinguished ancestor and of General Washington.

From the Hannah Winthrop Chapter D. A. R., a framed engraving of Washington for the library.

From Mrs. Lyman Tiffany, of New York, a pair of Washington's silk stockings.

From Miss Mary E. Powel, of Newport, an autograph letter from Washington. Another also from Mr. Robt. C. Rathbone, of New York.

From Miss McFadden, of New York, her annual gift of two National flags.

Dr. N. S. Toland, of Martinsburg, Ohio, loaned an old newspaper of 1783, containing Washington's farewell orders to the armies of the United States.

Mr. G. C. W. Magruder, of Washington, D. C., sends a list of relics in his possession which he is willing to place here as a loan.

From Mr. C. Faberge, of Moscow, Russia, photographs and descriptions of a handsome memorial locket containing hair of Washington. This is offered for sale—price \$1,000.00.

Mrs. Waln, of Philadelphia, presented to the Pennsylvania room two historically interesting marble hearthstones (for shovel and tongs.)

Judge James A. Pearce, of Maryland, through the Vice-

Regent for that state, donates a photograph of an original portrait of Washington. This he desires may be placed in the room furnished by Maryland.

#### BOAT.

The steamboat was withdrawn January 3rd for its annual overhauling, and resumed its daily schedule February 16th.

During that interval the Electric Railway Company extended the courtesy of free transportation to the Mount Vernon employes.

#### EMPLOYES.

Several changes have occurred among the employes during the year.

Mr. Hudson, one of the guards, resigned May 31st.

Mr. Thomas, a former employe, was chosen in his stead.

December 1st, Hattie Marshall came as cook in place of Sarah Taylor.

April 1st, 1903, two of the guards, Furr and Thomas, resigned, and Anderson and Permar were appointed.

Uniforms, rubber coats and boots were furnished the men as usual.

It gives me pleasure to commend the employes for their faithful service.

#### CONCLUSION.

Ladies, this my annual report is now about concluded, and I thank you for your patient consideration. The unusually busy year has made necessary a much heavier demand upon the Regent for instructions to guide me, but she has been ever alert and unfailing in her kind and wise rulings. My appreciation of her direction in my work is beyond expression. I have endeavored to acquaint you with the many details that have had my earnest attention,



and I hope your investigations will convince you that my labor for the welfare of Mount Vernon has not been in vain.

I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Faithfully yours,  
HARRISON H. DODGE,  
Res. Sec. and Supt.

## **GARDENER'S REPORT.**

Mount Vernon, Fairfax Co., Va., May 15, 1903.

LADIES:—

I herewith submit report of greenhouse and garden for year ending April 30, 1903:

Total receipts . . . . .	\$1021.35
Expenditures for postage, etc., on orders . . . . .	15.80

Cash to Superintendent . . . . .	\$1005.55
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I have carried out instructions of Council as to Harrison roses at R. R. gate, and Lily of the Valley in flower garden, etc. I can say little in regard to my work the past year, as the result and appearances must speak for me.

Roses and carnations did fairly well during the winter; and, in fact, everything thrived, in my opinion.

I sincerely hope my efforts may meet with your appreciation and assure you those efforts will not relax or be abated, but I shall earnestly endeavor to make each and every year an improvement over the preceding one.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

FRANKLIN A. WHELAN.

## **GARDENER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT.**

Salary of gardener . . . . .	\$1800.00
Salary of Oswald Oners . . . . .	480.00
Salary of William Harrison . . . . .	360.00
Expended by gardener . . . . .	15.80
	<hr/>
	\$2655.80
Receipts . . . . .	\$1021.35
	<hr/>
Net cost . . . . .	\$1634.45

## **REPORT OF SECRETARY FOR YEAR ENDING MAY, 1903.**

Regent's check for printing expenses . . . . .	\$79.60
Bill of H. J. Allen for printing expenses . . . . .	79.60

Regent's check for office expenses . . . . . \$50.00

Office expenses:

Typewriting . . . . .	\$10.00	
Assistant in packing . . . . .	6.00	
Postage and expressage . . . . .	16.00	
Stamps and envelopes . . . . .	6.00	38.00

Balance . . . . . \$12.00

JENNIE M. WARD, Secretary.

## STATE REPORTS.

### ALABAMA.

Birmingham, Ala., May 10, 1903.

The Vice Regent for Alabama reports that since the last meeting of Council she has visited many of the citizens of Alabama, and has told nearly ten thousand students and school children of the state the story of Mt. Vernon and the wonderful work of its restoration by the women of this Association.

It gives her pleasure to state that the children listened with great interest and enthusiasm, and the teachers report that it has developed a spirit of patriotism, with increased admiration and love for the character of Washington.

The press nobly seconded her efforts in this behalf. The children of the state, desiring to be identified with Mt. Vernon, have made a voluntary contribution of two hundred and eighty dollars to furnish the Alabama room. Roots of ivy have been forwarded to the schools contributing, and it was planted in their school yards with appropriate ceremonies.

It is not the amount of the gift that this association regards, but the spirit that prompts it, and as such she feels assured that this, though small, will be appreciated.

Respectfully,

MRS. LIZZIE JOHNSTON,

Vice Regent for Alabama.

**CALIFORNIA.**

I had fully expected to be present at Council this year, but business cares have detained me in California, and I very much regret that my absence is obligatory.

I am notified by the superintendent, who has been so kindly carrying out my instructions, that the sea wall is entirely completed, and I am glad that it will no longer form a subject of my report.

I enclose herewith check for one hundred dollars, payable to the order of the superintendent, to be applied to the Endowment Fund.

PHEBE A. HEARST,  
Vice Regent for California.

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**COLORADO.**

No report. Vice Regent prevented from attending Council by illness in family. She sent a check to the Regent for fifty dollars (\$50.00).

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**CONNECTICUT.**

It is with regret that the Vice Regent for Connecticut presents so meagre a report. Her state has done nothing, as usual. Personally, she has had the pleasure of passing over to the association several photographs of sun dials, received as a gift from Mrs. Alice Morse Earl. These are pictures of sun dials from the Washington homes in England; the dial once at Mt. Vernon, now in the possession of Wm. Havemeyer, Jr., of New York; another dial from "Kenmore," the home of Betty Washington (Mrs. Lawrence Fielding); also the dial from the home of Mary Washington. These pictures may, possibly, be of service in suggesting some substitute for the modern dial now at Mt. Vernon.

The Vice Regent has supplied a few small additions to

the superintendent's table service; also, three pea fowl to fill the place made vacant by death, hoping to make permanent this feature of the olden time.

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON,  
Vice Regent for Connecticut.

#### DELAWARE.

From Mr. Samuel Bancroft, Jr., of Wilmington, I report a gift of "two rough sketches by Sir Benjamin West (in pencil) and another paper, with a Latin inscription (in ink)." "The whole thing shows that it is simply the notation by him of first ideas as to what he would suggest for a monument to be placed over the burial place of the Father of his country." These were found among some papers bought for Mr. Bancroft by Mr. Charles Fairfax Murray, at a sale in London in 1898, of "the last relics at the old abode of Sir Benjamin West." Mr. Bancroft presents them, regarding this association as their proper custodians.

At the request of the Delaware Society of the Colonial Dames, I read a paper at their February meeting, on the "Origin of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association." The following resolution, which was passed, I was requested to read to this council: "The Delaware Society of Colonial Dames of America sends, through the Vice Regent for Delaware, greetings to the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association, and desires, as descendants of patriotic sires, to thank the association for the noble work which it has done, in preserving, for the American Nation, the home and tomb, forever sacred, of George Washington."

Later in the winter, I read the Mount Vernon paper to the Cæsar Rodney Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

I have supplied some new linen to replace that which is worn, in the Delaware room.

Respectfully submitted,  
HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS.  
Vice Regent for Delaware.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.**

The Vice Regent for the District of Columbia has to report, that with some money given for the needs of the room assigned to her, she has asked Mr. Dodge to carry out the request of the furniture committee in regard to curtains for the window and the bed, to the extent that the amount on hand will admit. In the matter of "a proper spring for the bed," she declined altering that piece of furniture; it came originally from Mount Vernon and is a relic of the past in its structure. It would be vandalism, for the comfort of an "occasional occupant" to modernize it. In furnishing the room, an effort was made to get articles identified with the place, or as far as attainable, of that period.

MARY T. BARNES,  
Vice Regent for District of Columbia.

**GEORGIA.**

The Vice Regent of Georgia reports having seen interesting relics of Gen. Washington. A pair of perfectly preserved lava pitchers with lids, marked, "G. W. 1776," which the owner is willing to sell. These pitchers were given by Gen. Washington to her ancestor, Gov. S——— of Rhode Island; also a pair of coasters, marked, "G. W. 1776." These latter plated and much worn.

The Vice Regent hopes these relics may be secured for Mount Vernon.

GEORGIA P. WILDER,  
Vice Regent for Georgia.

**ILLINOIS—No Report.****KANSAS.**

The reports for 1902 were distributed in the state, and,

in several instances, more were called for, as the very interesting report of the Regent and the farewell address of the founder were particularly attractive.

The "one dollar" annual gift of Mrs. Sleeper, of Iola, is not forthcoming this year, as the family were burned out of house and home during the year. She hopes, however, to continue, hereafter, this little annual gift.

A pleasant incident grew out of the fact that last year Mrs. Ball, Vice Regent for Virginia, presented me with a portrait of Washington suitable for school rooms. This I had framed and a friend presented it for me to Hawthorne school, Second ward, Ottawa.

The enthusiasm of my friend about Washington and Mount Vernon was so great as to arouse intense interest among the scholars, and they sent by two of their number a vote of thanks signed by every scholar in the room.

And, as they "salute the flag" hereafter, it will be with renewed interest in the Father of his Country and his home and tomb on the banks of the Potomac.

JENNIE M. WARD,  
Vice Regent for Kansas.

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#### KENTUCKY.

My report is a work begun rather than accomplished. I have, through the Women's Clubs of Kentucky, at their annual meeting, urged the claims of Mount Vernon upon their attention, and suggested the formation of societies, which, by a small annual contribution, might prove their interest in the work done here. I have, from this source, received \$25.00; from some Masonic lodges I have a gift of \$125.00; from the Louisville Chapter of S. A. R., I have \$10.00; from the Fincastle Chapter of D. A. R., I have \$5.00; and from a society of young girls in Frankfort, Ky., calling themselves "Junior Mount Vernon," I have \$35.00, making in all \$200.00, which, with other promised gifts, is

to purchase a pair of mules, which I hope to have delivered at Mount Vernon in July.

I also wish to report that transportation for these animals will be given me by the Chesapeake & Ohio R. R., at the request of Judge Alex. Humphrey, of Louisville.

MARGARETTA M. BARRET,  
Vice Regent for Kentucky.

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**LOUISIANA.**

I report with pleasure the following additional relics for the Charles Angelo Conrad and the Lawrence Lewis Conrad case: A basket of worsted flowers, most exquisitely made by Mrs. Martha Washington and loaned by Miss Mamie Worthington Conrad; also a plate, one of the set presented to Gen. Washington by Count de Foix; several pieces of Mrs. Washington's gowns; and a record of General Lafayette's tour through the United States, on his last visit, in 1824.

I regret I have not been able to present to the public school children of New Orleans Andrew Reed's memorial to Washington, which I have done for several years, on February 22. It was to be given to the best conducted and most truthful child in each class—not to the best student. But the public school board, learning of the unjust partiality of the teachers, decided, very properly, that no more memorials or medals, of any sort, were to be given.

IDA A. RICHARDSON,  
Vice Regent for Louisiana.

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**MAINE.**

No report. Vice Regent presented a check for \$50.00.

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**MARYLAND.**

No report. The Vice Regent for Maryland hoped, at one time, to be able to attend Council this year, but found herself unable to do so, to her deep regret.



**MASSACHUSETTS.**

I take pleasure in reporting first, a valuable gift from the Hannah Winthrop Chapter D. A. R., of Cambridge—a fine old steel engraving of Washington, by Ritchie, from a painting by Rothermell.

The Chapter has taken great pains to select a gift which is valuable in itself, and which they trust will be acceptable to the Association, and they gave the most careful consideration to the selection.

I also take pleasure in presenting a colored etching from Ramage's miniature of Washington and some books for the library. (See report.)

Miss Derby, of Boston, sends her annual subscription of \$5.00.

The reports of Council have been distributed, but I regret that illness has prevented my embracing several opportunities of reading a paper on Mt. Vernon, in different parts of the state. I feel very confident that the veneration for Mt. Vernon is unabated, as I hear such constant expressions of interest and admiration.

I had hoped to have the great satisfaction, at this Council, of being able to report the restoration to Mount Vernon of the old "Tambour Secretary," devised by Gen. Washington to his physician, Dr. James Craik. The family is now so scattered that they feel obliged to dispose of this valuable relic, and I am in correspondence with their representative on the subject, with reasonable hope of securing it and replacing it in the library at Mt. Vernon.

The chair belonging to the desk that was included in the bequest has, unfortunately, been separated from it and is now owned by a member of the family in Tennessee.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE M. LONGFELLOW,

Vice Regent for Massachusetts.

**MICHIGAN.**

The Vice Regent for Michigan reports a contribution of \$76.00 from the Detroit Mount Vernon Society, which will be applied to a fund for the purchase of Washington relics. The Vice Regent adds \$50.00 for the same fund.

The Vice Regent is happy to be able to add some evidence concerning the original ownership of the old coach.

The Vice Regent for New Jersey brings to Council an account of the Washington coach, found in an old book, accompanied by a picture, both of which correspond with the description given by the maker of both the Washington and Powel coaches, who has testified that the difference between the two was that the Washington coach was round bodied and the Powel was square.

Contributed by the Detroit Mt. Vernon Society . . .	\$76.00
Contributed . . . . .	50.00
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	\$126.00

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
Vice Regent for Michigan.

**MINNESOTA.**

Minnesota has not much to report this year. A donation of two dollars (2.00) from two very small children is much appreciated, which sum has been devoted to the purchase of rag carpet rugs for the spinning house.

REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,  
Vice Regent for Minnesota.

**MISSOURI.**

The Vice Regent for Missouri has two gifts to report: From the St. Louis Chapter Sons of the Revolution, \$45.00; from the Kansas City Chapter, \$14.26. Twelve large photographs of the mansion were sold in St. Louis.

CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM,  
Vice Regent for Missouri.

**NEBRASKA.**

I regret to report no contribution from the state of Nebraska during the past year. The annual reports were received and distributed by me. Some of our leading newspapers published illustrated articles and interesting interviews concerning Mount Vernon and the Ladies' Association, on Washington's birthday, and I note an increased interest in the details of his life and great career that will bear fruit in coming years.

REBECCA S. MANDERSON,  
Vice Regent for Nebraska.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE.**

The Vice Regent for New Hampshire reports that on April fourth, ult., she received from the assignee of the Cheshire Provident Institution, of Keene, New Hampshire, a check for sixteen dollars and fifty cents (\$16.50), payment of fourth dividend ordered by the court, being 10 per cent of the amount due the Association on the Sarah King Hale fund, by the commissioners. This check was sent to Mr. Riggs, treasurer, his acknowledgment herewith enclosed.

She deeply regrets enforced absence from Council.

ABBY R. WINDER,  
Vice Regent for New Hampshire.  
Portsmouth, N. H., May 12, 1903.

**NEW JERSEY.**

The Vice Regent for New Jersey reports the following gifts from her state during the year:

From the Mt. Vernon Society of Plainfield . . . . .	\$23.00
From the Mt. Vernon Society of Trenton . . . . .	20.00
From the Mt. Vernon Society of Elizabeth . . . . .	10.00
From the Mt. Vernon Society of Princeton . . . . .	10.00
From the Colonial Dames of Trenton . . . . .	10.00
From Miss Clark of Belvidere . . . . .	10.00
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	\$83.00

A pair of old silver candlesticks were given by Mrs. E. P. C. Lewis, of Hoboken, for the Lafayette room, and the Vice Regent has succeeded in procuring an old brass fender, which completes the furniture of the room.

HELEN F. CONOVER,  
Vice Regent for New Jersey.

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#### **NEW YORK—No Report.**

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#### **NORTH CAROLINA.**

A have made a full distribution of the Mount Vernon literature in my state. Repeated invitations from the Ladies' Clubs of North Carolina, to give them a report of the work of the Association and of Mt. Vernon, show the ever-increasing interest in the effort to preserve the sacred spot from decay. The excursion of the Federated Clubs of North Carolina to Mt. Vernon was postponed, as many of the official ladies were pressed into service to aid in building the monument to Sir Walter Raleigh.

L. H. WALKER,  
Vice Regent for North Carolina.

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#### **PENNSYLVANIA.**

The Vice Regent for Pennsylvania, during the last year, has made many efforts to secure for Mount Vernon articles that once belonged there. A number of persons written to on the subject regretted they could not part with their treasures—at present.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Kendrick, Jr., of Philadelphia, loaned the Custis Bible to the Mt. Vernon Association. This is the book that Martha Washington read from, daily, at Mt. Vernon.

The Vice Regent, according to a resolution passed at

the last Council, secured a reliable man for farmer on the Mt. Vernon estate.

Respectfully submitted,

ELLEN WALN HARRISON,

Vice Regent for Pennsylvania.

#### **RHODE ISLAND.**

The Vice Regent for Rhode Island would report the gift of an old piece of furniture for the committee room in the east quarters; also, an old tea tray for the table. Two trees from Mt. Vernon were planted by the Daughters of the American Revolution upon Arbor Day, with appropriate ceremonies. The sum of \$50.00 was given by the Daughters of the American Revolution, as in former years. Several meetings have been held during the year, to keep alive the interest already created in Mt. Vernon.

Respectfully submitted,

A. T. C. D. AMES,

Vice Regent for Rhode Island.

May 15, 1908.

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA.**

The Vice Regent for South Carolina reports interest in the great and sacred work of the preservation and restoration of Mt. Vernon as unabated in her state. The Exposition, which drained the state of all extra funds last year, made it impossible to secure any gifts of consequence. A contribution of \$8.00, in money, and some china, etc., for the bed room assigned to South Carolina, is all I have to report. The old rug from the dining room has been disposed of for the purpose of getting some suitable pieces of old furniture for the bed room.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,

Vice Regent for South Carolina.

**TENNESSEE—No Report.**

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**TEXAS.**

It gives the Vice Regent for Texas much pleasure to report the gift of \$10.00 from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Thankful Hubbard Chapter, which amount has been used in purchasing a pair of candlesticks with glass shades, to be used in the committee room in the east quarters.

The Texas Daughters of the American Revolution have placed in the Texas room a National flag and one of Texas. Between the flags is the coat of arms of their society. Their thoughtful kindness is much appreciated.

Mrs. S. T. Turner has given a beautiful counterpane; also, a small rug.

Two handsome old plates were presented by Mrs. Gertrude Wolley. The Mt. Vernon reports have been distributed freely throughout the state.

Other contributions: Mrs. J. A. Eddy, \$1.00; Miss Ella Sealy, \$1.00; Miss McCarthy and Miss Lila Swearingen, \$1.75.

Respectfully submitted,  
FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
Vice Regent for Texas.

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**VIRGINIA.**

The Vice Regent for Virginia has received a very beautiful copy of the coat of arms of Mary Ball, the mother of Washington. This copy is made from the original parchment of Joseph Ball, the father of Mary Washington. It gives me pleasure to present this beautiful gift to the association from Miss Nannie Barton Rice, of Baltimore.

From Mrs. Russell Robinson, of Virginia, I have received a gift of one of the silver memorial medals that were struck off at the time of Gen. Lafayette's visit to America.

On the 22nd of last February, I placed the portrait of Washington, by Gilbert Stuart, in fourteen of the public schools of Richmond. These engravings were nicely framed in Flemish oak, and to each one of them was attached the memorial to Washington, written by the Englishman, Andrew Reed. These memorials were the gift of the Vice Regent for Louisiana.

I also sent one of these pictures, with memorials attached, to the superintendents of the schools of Norfolk, Williamsburg, Fredericksburg, Petersburg, Staunton and Charlottesville, with the request that they be placed in the banner schools.

From Mrs. Herbert Claiborne, commissioner from Virginia to the Interstate and West Indian Exposition at Charleston, I have received official thanks for a handsome set of framed Mt. Vernon views sent to that exposition to represent the Mt. Vernon Association.

EMMA R. BALL,  
Vice Regent for Virginia.

#### WEST VIRGINIA

The Vice Regent for West Virginia has to report the promised gift of a chest of drawers and a cheval glass, certified to as belonging to Washington, and since that time having been in the Dandridge family, which is meant to be placed in the West Virginia room in the mansion.

She has distributed, where they were likely to do good, the Mt. Vernon reports of last year, and has had the pleasure to send from her own place, in West Virginia, six large clumps of very beautiful pæonies, grandiflora, for the new border in the kitchen garden.

Respectfully submitted,

SARAH PENDLETON VAN RENSSELAER,  
Vice Regent for West Virginia.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.**

### **REPORT OF MANSION COMMITTEE.**

The mansion is in such excellent condition that the committee has but few suggestions to make, which are as follows:

That the corner stone be given proper protection against disintegration.

That the mantel in General Washington's bed room be painted white, which it seems to have been originally.

That the columns and wooden sills of the colonnade be renewed and with more substantial foundations.

That the brick foundation of the smoke house be rebuilt; also, that if it be found advisable to employ a farmer, it will be necessary to provide suitable accommodations

Respectfully submitted,

REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,  
Acting Chairman.

ELLEN WALN HARRISON,  
A. I. C. D. AMES.

Report accepted.

### **REPORT OF FURNITURE COMMITTEE.**

Your committee would suggest that rubber strips be supplied for all the halls where the superintendent thinks it necessary.

That the spread on the bed of the "green room" be thoroughly bleached.

That a suitable valence be made for the bedstead in General Washington's room.

That the Martha Washington room be refurnished in flowered chintz.



That the back of the Benjamin Franklin chair be repaired.

A. I. C. D. AMES, Chairman.  
CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM,  
GEORGIA P. WILDER,  
HELEN F. CONOVER,  
ELLEN WALN HARRISON.

Accepted.

#### REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

Your committee reports that it has examined the books and finds them in good condition.

The following books have been added to the library:

1. The Republican Court.
2. Neuman's Frederick the Great.
3. Wilberforce's View of Christianity, 1799.
4. Monuments of Washington's Patriotism.
5. Washington in His Letters, S. Weir Mitchell.

An old extract book of Mary L. Custis, 1810.

Part of an old will of John Custis.

6. Three old papers of the Custis families, John Custis and Daniel Custis; one volume of old newspaper clippings from record committee.

The committee regrets not being able to add to this collection a very unique letter from Gen. Washington, signed by him and Martha Washington conjointly, the only one known to exist. It was sold in Philadelphia at a fabulous price, far beyond the offer of this committee.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE M. LONGFELLOW, Chairman.  
HELEN F. CONOVER,  
IDA A. RICHARDSON,  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
LIZZIE JOHNSON JOHNSTON.

Accepted.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RELICS.

The committee has to report having examined every

case, verified each relic and seen that every article was properly cleansed. It is with pleasure we report the receipt of a basket of worsted flowers, most artistically made, by Mrs. George Washington, and loaned by Mrs. Charles A. Conrad and Miss Mamie Worthington Conrad; and, also, from Mrs. Lawrence Lewis Conrad, a plate, one of a set sent Gen. Washington by the Comte de Foix, and several pieces of Mrs. Washington's gowns, and a record of Gen. Lafayette's tour through the United States, on his last visit, in 1824; also a very valuable cane of Gen. Washington's, a present to him from Louis XVI, inherited and used by Judge Bushrod Washington—donated by Mrs. Robert King Stone, of Washington, D. C., through Mrs. Barnes, the Vice Regent for the District of Columbia.

IDA A. RICHARDSON.

Accepted.

GEORGIA P. WILDER.

#### REPORT OF RECORD COMMITTEE.

Your committee reports having placed in the library, this year, an additional volume of filed newspaper clippings. So far as we can judge, the work of filing the early records of the Association is now finished; but as others may come into our possession, we ask that the \$67.10, which we have still in bank to our credit, may be left there for possible future use.

HARRIET C. COMEGYS, Chairman.

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON,

Accepted.

JENNIE M. WARD.

#### REPORT OF TOMB COMMITTEE.

Your committee gave a careful inspection of the work done on the tomb, as recommended by last Council. The removal of the red paint from the face of the bricks on the front, the growth of the vines, the pavements around and in the interior of the tomb, all testify to the loving care given to this sacred spot.

We suggest a brick gutter around the Conrad square;

also a brick pavement leading from the old tomb to the summer house.

L. H. WALKER, Chairman.  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,  
FRANCES C. MAXEY.

Accepted.

#### REPORT OF GREENHOUSE AND GARDEN COMMITTEE.

The committee is much gratified by the good condition of the flower garden and greenhouses. Its recommendations have been carefully carried out whenever practicable, and the box and privet hedges, and the flower beds never looked so trim and beautiful. The sales of flowers have increased greatly, and the income from the proceeds have gone a good way towards defraying the expenses of this department, which contributes so much to the beauty and interest at Mt. Vernon. The conditions for flower growing at Mt. Vernon are at all times exceptional, owing to a lack of free circulation of air consequent upon the brick walls, the over-shadowing trees, and the tall box hedges. For this reason we may never be able to raise flowers that will take premiums at horticultural shows, but for picturesqueness of general effect, in the grouping of roses, irises, pæonies and other plants and in the beauty of the box hedges, we may well challenge comparison with any garden in the country. During the past winter the gardener had to contend with the difficulty of securing coal, which was expensive everywhere, but he escaped loss from freezing, until a few of the old palms were touched by a late frost while in a temporary shelter house.

The committee did not use the appropriation made last year for the purchase of boxes, as no decision was reached concerning the pattern. It would ask for an appropriation this year of \$25.00 for this expenditure and

\$10.00 for the purchase of tubs for some of the plants.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
Chairman.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,  
HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,  
FRANCES C. MAXEY.

Report accepted and appropriation granted.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS AND SHRUBS.

The committee upon grounds and shrubs advises this honorable body of a serious land slide which occurred the past winter. Land slides in all this region of country are of frequent occurrence, and this one would not be of a dangerous character to the grounds of Mt. Vernon excepting in so far as it threatens the destruction of the sea wall. The cause of land slips is the formation of the strata of blue clay which dips toward the Potomac river. This blue clay covers a stratum of gravel, as "hard pan," but it is impervious to water; after hard rains this water becomes dangerous. It is now considered expedient to relieve this accumulation of water by a system of drainage. The placing of drain pipes down the hill, to intercept a cross drain which must carry off the water on each side of the hill—the pier side and the Gould land side.

This contemplated scheme will necessitate a large expenditure, and I would suggest that the bids be accepted only with the approval of the Regent and the chairman of this committee. It is not certain that this system of drainage will prevent the land sliding again. It seems, however, the most feasible form of trying to prevent it.

The walk needs renewing with brick from the tomb to the summer house, which will enable us to close a cut-off walk made by visitors, which has blemished the lawn. The gravel walks extending from either end of the porch, the superintendent suggests laying in brick, as he notices a dis-

inclination to walk on it in wet weather, by visitors, which is ruinous to his grass.

The wild honeysuckle which was planted on the hill-sides three years ago, has now covered the bare earth, making the pier drive most attractive; the coming year we shall plant much more. The row of cedar trees which were set last year, are doing well and will be added to the coming year.

MARY LEITER, Chairman.  
ELLEN WALN HARRISON,  
CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM,  
SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON.

A motion was made that the chairman of the grounds and shrubs committee, in consultation with Regent, be empowered to enquire into and report upon the drainage, preventing land slides, and laying of brick walks, before the end of Council. Moved by Mrs. Ames; seconded by Miss Comegys.

#### REPORT OF THE KITCHEN GARDEN COMMITTEE.

The chairman of the kitchen garden committee begs to report that her committee finds the kitchen garden in good condition. The Council's table has been supplied with strawberries and asparagus this season. The wall fruit looks well and the fig trees are in good condition. The committee suggests that a small arbor be made against the wall of the garden, at the end of the long walk, and the grape vine that is already there can be made to cover the arbor, thus making an attractive and an old fashioned feature.

The committee suggests that the garden space be all in turn treated as the garden flower borders, during the last year, and thus improve the character of the soil, which will yield better results.

Respectfully submitted,  
ELLEN WALN HARRISON, Chairman.  
HARRIET C. COMEGYS,  
SARAH P. V. RENSSELAER.

Accepted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FARM.

Upon investigation, it is found that our farming interests have had careful attention the past year. The land available for tillage was all utilized to the best advantage, and while the season proved very unfavorable for oats, clover and timothy, fair crops of millet, corn and wheat were secured.

The yield of wheat and the subsequent stand of grass on the same lot demonstrated the success of the treatment of our impoverished soil as begun three years ago. A continuation of similar improvement for the rest of the farm is confidently hoped for, now that means and better opportunities for this branch of our work are within reach. To that end, we advocate (as suggested at last Council) the employment of a farmer who, under the direction of our superintendent, can give his undivided attention to these duties.

For bettering the condition of the cattle, it is strongly urged, for particular reasons, that the old stables be vacated (for a few years at least) and new accommodations arranged with suitable equipment and sanitation.

We are pleased that the experiment of pasturing sheep on the lawns has begun, and trust that the results will justify it as a permanent benefit.

Respectfully submitted,

May 5, 1903.

PHEBE A. HEARST.

The farm committee, also, after careful consideration of the question, recommends that the Association build on the Mt. Vernon farm a sanitary cow house, with barn yard attached; also, a farmer's cottage and small dairy, the site of same to be decided later.

The committee asks for an appropriation of \$250.00 for manure.

Accepted.

ELLEN WALN HARRISON,  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,  
MARGARETTA M. BARRET,  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY RULES.**

There being only one of the committee on parliamentary rules present, and that one newly appointed, she has no report to offer, but has been requested by the Regent to prepare a set of rules to be presented at the next meeting of the Council.

REBECCA S. MANDERSON.

Accepted.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS.**

The revision of by-laws has not been completed.

IDA S. RICHARDSON, Chairman.

**REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

Your committee would respectfully report a faithful examination of the Regent's financial statement, and of bills and vouchers for the past year, and they find them clear and correct.

Your committee has also compared the reports of the treasurer and of the superintendent, including the accounts of the purser and of the gardner, and reports them entirely correct and satisfactory.

Total receipts of year . . . . .	\$89,306.17
Expenditures . . . . .	\$26,534.21
Investments . . . . .	30,000.00
	<u>56,534.21</u>
Balance in bank . . . . .	\$ 3,771.96

**REPORT OF MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.**

Your committee has completed its work on the historical sketch of Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, the founder of the Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association, and take pleasure in presenting to Council the four thousand five hundred copies of the same. These were printed at the cost of nine hundred and fifty-one dollars (\$951.00), a fraction over twenty-one cents for a single copy, and within the limit of

the sum appropriated last year for the purpose. Seventy-five copies were handed to each Vice Regent for distribution in her state. The remaining two thousand copies will be placed in care of the superintendent, that he may give them to visitors to Mt. Vernon.

A check for \$90.00 we hand to our Regent, which represents the sum still in bank to the credit of the chairman of the \$100.00 voted by Council to defray the necessary expenses of the committee.

HANNAH CLAYTON COMEGYS, Chairman,  
SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON,  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

#### **REPORT OF TABLET COMMITTEE.**

The beautiful bronze tablet to the memory of Miss A. P. Cunningham, ordered by the Association for this, the semi-centennial year of her work for Mt. Vernon, is now placed under her portrait in the South Carolina room.

The inscription reads as follows:

"To the memory of Ann Pamela Cunningham, of South Carolina, the founder, in 1858, and the first Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

"By her efforts and in response to her appeals the purchase money was raised, and in 1858 the home and tomb of Washington became the property of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union."

L. H. WALKER, Chairman.  
SARAH PENDLETON VAN RENSSELAER,  
EMMA R. BALL.



## LIST OF COMMITTEES.

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### FINANCE.

Mrs. Ball, Chairman; Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Rathbone.

### MANSION.

Mrs. Flandrau, Chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Goldsborough, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Ames.

### FURNITURE.

Mrs. Ames, Chairman; Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Graham, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Harrison.

### LIBRARY.

Miss Longfellow, Chairman; Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Johnston.

### GROUNDS AND SHRUBS.

Mrs. Leiter, Chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Richardson.

### GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE.

Mrs. Barnes, Chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Leiter, Mrs. Wilder, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Maxey, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

### KITCHEN GARDEN.

Mrs. Harrison, Chairman; Miss Townsend, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

### FARM.

Mrs. Hearst, Chairman; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Barret.

### YOUTH.

Mrs. Walker, Chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Goldsborough, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Ball.

### RELIGIOUS.

Mrs. Richardson, Chairman; Mrs. Winder, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Wilder.

### RECORDS.

Miss Comegys, Chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Ward.

### BY-LAWS.

Mrs. Richardson, Chairman; Mrs. Winder, Mrs. Ames, Mrs. Manderson.

### INDEX.

Mrs. Flandrau, Chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Winder.

### PARLIAMENTARY RULES.

Mrs. Sweat, Chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Goldsborough, Mrs. Manderson.

### PRESS.

Mrs. Wilder, Chairman; Mrs. Winder, Miss Longfellow, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Harrison.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

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A number of ladies of Council attended service at Pohick church on Sunday and accepted the courtesies of the rector and his family.

The Board of Visitors appointed by the governor of Virginia was the same as last year: Col. Archer Anderson, Richmond, Va., Mr. L. C. Berkeley, Danville, Va., Mr. W. H. White, Norfolk, Va., Mr. Gardener L. Booth, Alexandria, Va., and Mr. A. Moore, Berryville, Va.

The legislature being still in session, all of these gentlemen, as well as the governor, were unable to come to Mt. Vernon on the day fixed by Council.

A delegation of ladies from Alexandria, including Miss Stewart, Mrs. Cummings and Mrs. E. Washington Howard, extended an invitation to the ladies of Council to visit that historic city on Wednesday at 4 p. m. Twelve ladies, including the Regent, accepted, and at the hour appointed were met at the north gate by an escort of ladies and gentlemen and whirled away by special car on the electric railway through the park-like scenery, across "Hunting Creek," "Dogue Run," and other points on the old Washington estate so frequently mentioned by the general in his letters to his overseers.

At Alexandria the party was conveyed in carriages, first to the engine house to view the old hand engine, a huge affair with enormous levers, carefully preserved. Thence to "Christ Church," where Washington's pew is preserved unchanged and the pulpit and Bible are the same—a spot almost too sacred to enter. Thence to the Masonic Temple where he was initiated into the order. Here many relics of him and his time are kept. The clock that stood by his dying bed which Dr. Craik stopped at the hour of his death; the pen-knife which his mother gave him, and other objects which seem to bring the "real" Geo. Washington before

us. From this point to the old building in which Braddock met the five deputy governors and planned the fatal campaign. This building has an interesting history, and its restoration and preservation are the objects the society has in view. A beautiful collation was served here and short talks made on the history of the ancient city, and then the party left for the return trip, accompanied still by part of their gracious entertainers. Thus ended one of the pleasantest episodes in Council work.

The memorial volume to Miss Cunningham, prepared last year for this fiftieth anniversary, is being distributed by the Vice Regents to those interested in the work.

The grounds at Mount Vernon were in beautiful order, the weather was perfect, a prosperous year was reported, and all felt the wish that many more such Councils may be held as that which closed on May 21st, 1903, to meet again May 10th, 1904.

JENNIE M. WARD,  
Secretary and Vice Regent for Kansas.

**COMPLETE LIST OF ALL OFFICERS OF MOUNT VERNON  
LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION.**

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**Founder and First Regent 1853-1873,  
 Miss ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA,  
 Resigned 1873; Died 1874.**

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**VICE REGENTS APPOINTED 1858.**

1. Mrs. Anna Cora Ogden Ritchie, resigned 1866 . . . . . Virginia
2. Mrs. Alice H. Dickinson, resigned 1859 . . . . . North Carolina
3. Mrs. Philoclea Edgeworth Eve, died 1889 . . . . . Georgia
4. Mrs. Octavia Walton Le Vert, died 1866 . . . . . Alabama
5. Mrs. Catherine A. McWillie, died 1873 . . . . . Mississippi
6. Mrs. Margaretta S. Morse, resigned 1873; died 1895 . . Louisiana
7. Mrs. Mary Rutledge Fogg, died—— . . . . . Tennessee
8. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Walton, resigned 1860 . . . . . Missouri
9. Miss Mary Morris Hamilton, died 1876 . . . . . New York
10. Mrs. Louisa Ingersoll Greenough, resigned 1865 . . Massachusetts
11. Mrs. Abba Isabella Little, resigned 1863 . . . . . Maine
12. Mrs. Catherine Willis Murat, died 1867 . . . . . Florida
13. Mrs. Mary Boott Goodrich, resigned 1861; app. 1857 . Connecticut
14. Miss Phebe Ann Ogden, died 1867 . . . . . New Jersey
15. Mrs. Alice Key Pendleton, resigned 1863; died 1885 . . . Ohio
16. Mrs. Abby Wheaton Chace, died 1892 . . . . . Rhode Island
17. Mrs. Jane Maria Van Antwerp, died —— . . . . . Iowa
18. Mrs. Margaret Ann Comegys, died 1888 . . . . . Delaware
19. Mrs. Hannah Blake Farnsworth, died 1879 . . . . . Michigan
20. Mrs. Sarah King Hale, resigned 1861 . . . . . New Hampshire
21. Mrs. Martha Mitchell, died 1902 . . . . . Wisconsin
22. Mrs. Rosa Vertner Johnson, died—— . . . . . Kentucky

**1859.**

23. Mrs. Elizabeth Willard Barry, died 1884 . . . . . Illinois
24. Mrs. Sarah J. Sibley, died 1869 . . . . . Minnesota
25. Mrs. Mary Pepperell Jarvis Cutts, resigned 1878 . . . . Vermont
26. Miss Lily Lytle Macalester, died 1891 . . . . . Pennsylvania
27. Mrs. Magdalen G. Blanding, resigned 1883 . . . . . California
28. Mrs. Harriet V. Fitch, died 1880 . . . . . Indiana
29. Mrs. Sarah H. Johnson, died 1866 . . . . . Arkansas
30. Mrs. Anne Lucas Hunt, died 1878; app. 1860 . . . . . Missouri
31. Mrs. Letitia Harper Walker . . . . . North Carolina

1860.

32. Mrs. Mary Chestnut, died 1861 . . . . . South Carolina

1866.

33. Mrs. Margaret J. M. Sweat . . . . . Maine

34. Miss Emily L. Harper, died 1891 . . . . . Maryland

35. Mrs. Lucy H. Pickens, died August 1899 . . . . . South Carolina

36. Mrs. M. E. Hickman, resigned 1867 . . . . . Nevada

37. Mrs. M. A. Stearns, resigned 1872 . . . . . New Hampshire

38. Mrs. Emily R. M. Hewson, resigned 1866 . . . . . Ohio

39. Miss Ella Hutchins, resigned 1866 . . . . . Texas

1867.

40. Mrs. Janet M. C. Riggs, resigned 1868 . . . . . District of Columbia

41. Mrs. Maria Brooks, resigned 1876 . . . . . New York

42. Mrs. Matilda W. Emory, resigned 1873 . . . . . District of Columbia

43. Mrs. Nancy Wade Halsted, died 1891 . . . . . New Jersey

1868.

44. Mrs. Nannie C. Yulee, died 1884; app. 1868 . . . . . Florida

1870.

45. Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson . . . . . Connecticut

46. Mrs. Betsey C. Mason, died 1873 . . . . . Virginia

47. Mrs. A. P. Dillon, resigned 1874; died 1898 . . . . . Iowa

48. Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, died 1898 . . . . . West Virginia

1872.

49. Mrs. William Balfour, resigned 1875 . . . . . Mississippi

50. Mrs. Mary T. Barnes . . . . . District of Columbia

51. Mrs. David Urquhart, resigned 1876 . . . . . Louisiana

52. Mrs. M. E. Maverick, resigned 1873 . . . . . Texas

53. Mrs. C. L. Scott, resigned 1877 . . . . . Arkansas

This was the last appointment of Miss Cunningham, first Regent.

MRS. LILY M. BERGHMAN,

SECOND REGENT, 1874-1891.

Died 1891.

VICE REGENTS APPOINTED 1874.

54. Mrs. Emma Reed Ball . . . . . Virginia

55. Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, died 1883 . . . . . Tennessee

1875.

56. Mrs. Lily L. Broadwell, died 1890 . . . . . Ohio

57. Mrs. John P. Jones . . . . . Nevada

1876.

58. Mrs. Jennie Meeker Ward . . . . . Kansas  
 59. Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend . . . . . New York

1878.

60. Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, resigned 1880 . . . . . Vermont

1879.

61. Miss Alice Longfellow . . . . . Massachusetts  
 62. Mrs. Robert Campbell, died 1882 . . . . . Missouri

1880.

63. Mrs. Ida A. Richardson . . . . . Louisiana

1882.

64. Miss Ella S. Herbert, died 1884 . . . . . Alabama

1885.

65. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Adams Rathbone . . . . . Michigan

66. Mrs. Mary T. Leiter . . . . . Illinois

67. Mrs. Janet De Kay King, died 1896 . . . . . Vermont

68. Mrs. Eliza Woodward, died 1897 . . . . . Kentucky

1888.

69. Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys . . . . . Delaware

70. Mrs. Fannie Gilchrist Baker, died 1901 . . . . . Florida

1889.

71. Mrs. Alice Hill . . . . . Colorado

72. Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau . . . . . Minnesota

73. Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst . . . . . California

1890.

74. Mrs. A. R. Winder . . . . . New Hampshire

1891.

75. Mrs. Georgia Page Wilder . . . . . Georgia

This was the last nomination of Mrs. Lily Macalester Laughton,  
 second Regent (Madame Berghman).

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### MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND,

#### THIRD REGENT.

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#### VICE REGENTS APPOINTED 1893.

76. Mrs. George R. Goldsborough . . . . . Maryland  
 77. Mrs. J. Dundas Lippincott, died 1894 . . . . . Pennsylvania  
 78. Miss Mary Lloyd Pendleton, resigned 1897 . . . . . Ohio

79. Mrs. Philip Schuyler, resigned 1891 . . . . . New York  
 80. Mrs. Christine Blair Graham . . . . . Missouri  
 81. Mrs. Frances S. Conover . . . . . New Jersey  
 82. Mrs. Mary Polk Yeatman Webb . . . . . Tennessee  
 1894.  
 83. Miss Leila Herbert, died 1897 . . . . . Alabama  
 1895.  
 84. Mrs. Robert H. Clarkson, resigned 1900; died 1902 . . . Nebraska  
 85. Mrs. William Ames . . . . . Rhode Island  
 86. Miss Amy Townsend . . . . . , New York  
 1896.  
 87. Mrs. Charles Curtis Harrison . . . . . Pennsylvania  
 88. Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey . . . . . Texas  
 1898.  
 89. Mrs. James E. Campbell, resigned 1902 . . . . . Ohio  
 1900.  
 90. Mrs. R. D. Johnston . . . . . Alabama  
 91. Mrs. C. F. Manderson . . . . . Nebraska  
 92. Mrs. E. Van Rensselaer . . . . . West Virginia  
 1901.  
 93. Mrs. J. J. Pringle . . . . . South Carolina  
 94. Mrs. Wm. F. Barret . . . . . Kentucky  
 95. Mrs. Chas. Denby . . . . . Indiana

# **THE FAREWELL ADDRESS**

**of the Founder and First Regent of the Mount  
Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union**

To the Council of the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association of June, 1874. Ladies: It was my intention as well as my duty to have met you at this time and conformed in person to the legal requisition accompanying a resignation so important as mine, but Providence does not permit.

But in parting, I feel it due to you as to me; to the responsibilities I solemnly assumed, which were so important in their results; to those you have taken upon yourselves, to say a few words as to those responsibilities, or duties laid down in the beginning of our work, not to be lightly regarded, for they were pledges to future generations as well as to ours. The minds and hearts which conceived the rescue of the home of Washington; of the completion of a worthy "tribute" to public integrity and private virtue; an expression of the gratitude due and felt by a country destined to act such an important part in the drama of the world; conceived it with all the reverence felt in older regions for the resting places of their honored dead; where only pious hands are permitted to be in "charge" so as to have them carried down to admiring ages in the same condition as when left.

Such was the pledge made to the American



heart when an appeal was made to it to save the home and tomb of Washington, the father of his country, from all change, whether by law or desecration. Such, to the last owner of Mount Vernon, ere he was willing to permit it to pass from his hands. Such to the legislature of his mother state, ere she gave us legal rights over it. *Such are we bound to keep.* Our honor is concerned, as well as our intelligence and legal obligations. The mansion and the grounds around it should be religiously guarded from changes—should be kept as Washington left them.

Ladies, the home of Washington is in your charge, see to it that you keep it the home of Washington. Let no irreverent hand change it; no vandal hands desecrate it with the fingers of progress! Those who go to the home in which he lived and died, wish to see in what he lived and died! Let one spot in this grand country of ours be saved from change! Upon you rests this duty.

When the Centennial comes, bringing with it its thousands from the ends of the earth, to whom the home of Washington will be the *place* of *places* in our country, let them see that, though we slay our forests, remove our dead, pull down our churches, remove from home to home, till the hearthstone seems to have no resting place in America; let them see that we do know how to care for the home of our Hero! Farewell!

Ladies, I return to your hands the office so long held—since December 2nd, 1853.

Respectfully,

June 1st, 1874.

ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM.







**Annual Report**  
of the  
**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association**  
of the Union

**1904**



OTTAWA REPUBLIC PRINT.  
OTTAWA, KANSAS.



Mount Vernon Ladies' Assoc. - 29-129

## OFFICERS

### OF THE

## Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

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### REGENT.

MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND.

New York City.

Summer, Southampton, Long Island.

### VICE REGENTS.

MRS. LETITIA H. WALKER, North Carolina.

MRS. MARGARET J. M. SWEAT, Maine.

MRS. S. E. JOHNSON HUDSON, Connecticut.

MRS. MARY T. BARNES, Washington, D. C.

MRS. EMMA R. BALL, Virginia.

MRS. JENNIE M. WARD, Kansas.

MISS ALICE M. LONGFELLOW, Massachusetts.

MRS. IDA A. RICHARDSON, Louisiana.

MRS. ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Michigan.

MRS. MARY T. LEITER, Illinois.

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MRS. A. R. WINDER, New Hampshire.

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MRS. WM. AMES, Rhode Island.

MISS AMY TOWNSEND, New York.

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MRS CHAS. DENBY, Indiana.

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MR. E. FRANCIS RIGGS, Washington, D. C.

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MR. HARRISON H. DODGE, Mt. Vernon on Potomac, Va.

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT.**

MR. JAMES YOUNG, Mt. Vernon on Potomac, Va.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER, U. S. Supreme Court, Washington, D. C.  
MR. JAMES CARTER, 277 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union**  
HELD AT  
**MT. VERNON, FAIRFAX CO., VA.**  
**MAY 12 TO 20, 1904.**

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**Ladies present:**

Mrs. Townsend, Regent.	Mrs. Ames, Vice Regent.
Mrs. Walker, Vice Regent.	Mrs. Manderson, Vice Regent.
Mrs. Sweat, Vice Regent.	Mrs. Maxey, Vice Regent.
Mrs. Hudson, Vice Regent.	Miss Townsend, Vice Regent.
Mrs. Ball, Vice Regent.	Mrs. Pringle, Vice Regent.
Mrs. Comegys, Vice Regent.	Mrs. Wilder, Vice Regent.
Mrs. Conover, Vice Regent.	Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Vice Regent.
Mrs. Rathbone, Vice Regent.	Mrs. Johnston, Vice Regent.
Mrs. Ward, Vice Regent.	Mrs. Barret, Vice Regent.
Mrs. Richardson, Vice Regent.	Mrs. Winder, Vice Regent.
Mrs. Leiter and Mrs. Hearst.	

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**REGENT'S ANNUAL REPORT.**

**DEAR LADIES:**

The month of May and dear Mount Vernon are almost synonymous in my mind, and I think must be equally so with all of us. The early members met here, in this month, and retain their memories of those struggling years of the past. The later members have met here at this season, bravely walking in the footsteps of the pioneers, have done their good work and are still doing it.

On its fiftieth anniversary Mount Vernon seemed to be at the height of its glory. The founder received her tributes—a literary work of exquisite beauty and truthfulness, and also a tablet of marble with the inscription of the great work she had rendered to her own country and to the world, in her preservation of the home of Washington.

Our circle this year has been specially blessed; not-



withstanding the rigors of the winter foe, it has remained unbroken. Some few, however, through illness, will not be able to join us. Mrs. Ames, our energetic, bright and valued vice regent for Rhode Island, has been ill. Yet, notwithstanding this, she wrote to the senator of her state in congress to look after the interests of Mount Vernon, for a place for the marble bust of the founder of our society, in the hall of statuary. Mrs. Hill, of Colorado, sailed for Europe in March, with her invalid daughter. She fain would have joined the dear circle at Mount Vernon, she said. I have urged our dear Mrs. Goldsborough to be with us this year, but I have no hope of her coming; my efforts have not been successful. But we have great happiness in welcoming our sister, whom we have not seen for many years, but whose works are ever before us and highly appreciated. Mrs. Hearst, in person, is dear to many of us, and I trust that the love and harmony which always rules at Mount Vernon may entice her to join us more frequently in the future. Age is a topic which should never be discussed, it is said; but when I think of our two wonderful octogenarians, how can we do otherwise than honor and laud them as they deserve. Having raised this great work and brought it to a pinnacle of glory, they still come to enjoy, and to advise for the future.

But now for the report of this last year. The work accomplished has been a great one and a serious undertaking. In studying the cause of the landslide in the deer park, our able mining engineer, Mr. Archer, tested the ground and discovered many streams of water. A decision to build a tunnel was the result of his investigations, and Mr. Archer will be here in order to show the map and explain the courses of the underground tunnel. I visited Mount Vernon in October and walked 187 feet into the tunnel, and felt convinced that this number of feet would be greatly multiplied before the land would be safe. Mr.

Archer informed me that he had not ceiled the roof, as yet, because by supporting it with strong oaken timbers, the streams of water (should more develop) would merely flow in and be readily perceived. And to prove his wisdom a flow of water burst forth that morning.

I will state here that upon my return to New York I had an interview with the engineer-in-chief of the tunnel in that city. I stated the case and the cause for not ceiling the roof of the tunnel at this period. His answer was: "In this region of water streams which may gush out at any time, your engineer is quite correct *not to ceil the tunnel*. Strong oaken props might be used until time proves that the waters have all been discovered and treated. I should think and advise that they remain fixed for three years, not longer, as by that period of time all danger of recurrence would be passed."

The historic corner stone was rechiseled and hardened by the newly found discovery. It seemed to be successful in hardening the soft sandstone blocks composing the foundations of the mansion. A visit to the cellars would interest the ladies, as our superintendent will show the many efforts made at different times to strengthen the building. The collonades connecting the office and kitchen with the mansion, received new columns (26 in number) with block foundations and new brick coping.

Towards the end of March our superintendent informed me of the alarming illness of Capt. Blake.\* He had been seized with heart failure and it was feared that he could never recover. He had been at Mount Vernon a few days before, having come to inform the superintendent that the boat would resume its trips on the first of April. All the officials were startled at his appearance—his feebleness and pallor. I wrote at once to the captain, expressing the sympathy of the ladies, who all appreciated his faithfulness

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\*See obituary notice from The Post on last page.

to Mount Vernon. About a week later I received a letter from him telling me that he hoped to meet the ladies at the boat, on May 11, and thanking me for the letter. In connection with his dangerous illness, I thought it wise, on account of renewal of boat contract, to secure the services of an able lawyer to draw and remodel our contract. The services of Mr. Darlington, who is a man of ability, has been secured.

We have had some changes among our employees this year.

John Brown who has been our driver, made himself obnoxious and was discharged.

The young German, who assisted in the garden, was a great loss to us. He had been offered large wages if he would go to St. Louis and, naturally, accepted.

The guard at the tomb, Jasper, was suffering from colds and our superintendent advised him to go to his home and see his doctor, which he did, but he lingered a few days only, and died. The information was sent to our superintendent, and an inquiry whether the ladies would aid somewhat in the funeral expenses, as there was little or no money in the family. I authorized the superintendent to ascertain the expenses, which were covered by thirty dollars, for which the family was very grateful. Some friends in his church, where he was very much esteemed, added to the amount. Another guard has been secured, a minister, who seems in every way satisfactory.

Our superintendent remained at his post of duty quite late, as he felt his presence necessary on account of the increase of laborers required for the tunnel work. The result was a severe illness. I ordered him to leave here and to set off as soon as possible, but illness at his home prevented his doing so at once. Finally the healing air of Dakota restored his strength and I lengthened his vacation. Mr. Young performed all his work satisfactorily and cheer-

fully, realizing that each week gained by the superintendent was an additional guarantee of health for the future.

Our gardener has attended faithfully to the work of his department. Unfortunately, his assistant, who gave great satisfaction, left us, and since then temporary aid only has been provided, until the superintendent could find an efficient assistant for Mr. Whelan.

The flowers have been beautiful, and have been much admired by my New York friends, as this winter I have purchased them, inasmuch as the travel was so much curtailed by inclement weather, and I was glad to spread the reputation of Mount Vernon in that beautiful line of work.

I must not forget the gift of two mules, sent us by Mrs. Barret. They are a beautiful pair and caused us much delight, for we lost a pair of horses during the severe winter.

Mrs. Manderson's fine poultry have given us an attractive nursery of chickens of great beauty.

In closing my reports, I might always apologize for their length, but the minute details are intended not so much for yourselves as for the absent members, prevented by illness of themselves or family, from being with us. By this method they are kept in touch with the work of Mount Vernon in all its lines. Therefore, as dear sisters, I feel that you will pardon me.

My special prayer of last year, that our Heavenly Father would keep us an unbroken circle, to meet again this year, has been graciously answered.

Let me again ask for heavenly blessings for you all, dear sisters, and for

Your loving Regent,

JUSTINE V. R. TOWNSEND.

May 10, 1904.

## **STATE REPORTS.**

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### **ALABAMA STATE REPORT.**

The vice regent for Alabama reports visits made in the interest of Mount Vernon to many parts of the state, which has resulted in a widespread interest in the work of the Association, and a demand for information.

The beautiful memorial of Miss Cunningham has called forth unstinted commendation and has been placed in school libraries, with the hope that the women of the future may be inspired to greater patriotism by the story of her heroic life.

The following donations have been made to the Alabama room:

Mrs. Milton Humes, a chair, pair of silver candalabra, antique fire bellows.

Mr. A. C. Hart, two carved chairs.

Mrs. Colston, one chair.

Mrs. S. H. Lowry, one divan.

General S. H. Moore, one sofa.

The Misses Wheeler, antique silver-mounted ornaments.

LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON,

Vice Regent.

### **CALIFORNIA STATE REPORT.**

Having been absent from California during the year, I have nothing of special interest to report.

It gives me pleasure to contribute one hundred dollars to the endowment fund.

PHOEBE A. HEARST,

May 12, 1904.

Vice Regent.

### **CONNECTICUT STATE REPORT.**

The vice regent from Connecticut regrets that she has nothing to report from her state. Exiled by ill health

to Italy for the winter, her personal exertions were limited to scattering "Reports," and "Memorials" among Americans resident in Italy and France, and endeavoring thus to create among them some interest in Washington's home.

Respectfully presented,

S. E. JOHNSON HUDSON,  
Vice Regent.

#### **DELAWARE STATE REPORT.**

The vice segent for Delaware reports the gift of a black wedgewood-ware coffee pot, from Mr. Walter Morris of Dover. It was bought in Philadelphia by his great grandmother, when General Washington was president of the United States. With interest money which has accumulated on the memorial fund, contributed by patriotic women in her state, the vice regent has purchased an old-fashioned looking glass suitable to hang in the Delaware room.

In February, at the request of the Dover Century Club, she read a paper on Mount Vernon, on account of their celebration of Washington's birthday. Copies of the Memorial to Miss Cunningham and of the Annual Report have been duly distributed.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,  
Vice Regent.

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REPORT.**

The vice regent for the District of Columbia has to report that Mr. Dodge has kindly carried out and paid for, out of money given her for the requirements of her room, all that was needed in the way of improvements. She has received for Mount Vernon a package of flower and vegetable seeds by the department of agriculture, which she hopes will be acceptable for the green house and garden.

MARY T. BARNES,  
Vice Regent.

### **GEORGIA STATE REPORT.**

The vice regent for Georgia reports having secured the lava pitchers once belonging to Washington and given by him to Governor Sessions of Rhode Island. These relics are now on the sideboard in the family dining room. For this purchase the vice regent for Rhode Island contributed \$50 and the vice regent for Missouri \$59.26. The remaining \$390.74 was paid from the contingent fund by the Regent.

The vice regent for Georgia has distributed the memorial sketch of the life of Miss Cunningham, and contributed ten dollars for the green house.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,  
Vice Regent.

### **ILLINOIS STATE REPORT.**

The vice regent for Illinois has sent reports of council of 1903 to the Chicago Historical Society, the governor of the state and several citizens of the state.

I received \$1 in money in an envelope, with the simple announcement: "This money belongs to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of Illinois."

MARY T. LEITER.  
Vice Regent.

### **INDIANA STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Indiana regrets that severe illness forbids her attendance at Council. She begs leave to report the gift of three Brussels carpets for the rooms of the office building and the distribution of a large number of "Memorials," "Annual Reports" and other Mount Vernon pamphlets. She hopes that Council will, for the future, grant her the privilege of furnishing and keeping in order the rooms occupied by the superintendent and assistant superintendent.

MARTHA FITCH DENBY,  
Vice Regent.

### KENTUCKY STATE REPORT.

The vice regent for Kentucky reports the following gifts from her state:

Pair of mules, value \$400. Of this amount \$200 was collected last year and reported to Council as held for the purchase of these animals.

Transportation of these mules, \$72, secured by Judge Humphrey of Louisville, Ky., from the C. & O. R. R.; \$36 from the Junior Mount Vernon Society of Frankfort, Ky., to be used to aid in furnishing the Kentucky room at Mount Vernon.

Some small sums to be used for the same purpose.

Very respectfully,

MARGARETTA M. BARRET,  
Vice Regent.

### KANSAS STATE REPORT.

The vice regent has to report the one dollar annual gift from Mrs. Sleeper of Iola, Kansas. This she resumes this year and hopes to continue. It is applied this year to the Kansas room in the west quarters. Reports and "Miss Cunningham pamphlets" have been freely distributed, and growing interest is manifested in many places. One request to talk to the school children has been complied with and views of the place shown.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. WARD,  
Vice Regent.

### LOUISIANA STATE REPORT.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that I now present you a genuine and one of the very few original portraits of Gen. Washington, by Gilbert Stuart. The gift is from my sister, Miss Caroline H. Richardson, of Louisville Ky. She wished it should be presented as from me, but I feel the honor is sufficient to present it to Mount Vernon from



her. Here are the certificates of its genuineness, which I will read and hand over to the record committee: "This Stuart's portrait of Washington was purchased of Gilbert Stuart by George Beck of Boston, for Mary Alexander Parker of Lexington, Ky., and was purchased at the public sale of Miss Parker's effects, by Wm. Richardson, then residing in Lexington, and by him brought to Louisville."

IDA A. RICHARDSON,  
Vice Regent for Louisiana.

#### **MAINE STATE REPORT.**

I take great pleasure in reporting the gift of several articles once the property of Mrs. Washington. They have belonged for many years to my friend, Mrs. Lyman Tiffany, of New York and Washington, D. C., who has kindly allowed me to be the medium for their transmission to Mount Vernon. The papers which accompany them give the particulars of their purchase by Mr. Tiffany in 1873, and the sworn statement of their previous owner. The articles are: A tortoise shell snuff box, a mourning brooch, a pair of seed pearl earrings.

I wish also to state that on September 28 last year (1903) I met at Mount Vernon a gentleman who was shocked by the shabbiness of our carriage for the conveyance of visitors to and from the boat. I explained to him that the Association would not object to exchanging it for a handsomer one, under proper conditions. He replied with enthusiasm and promised to send us a new carriage soon after his return to Columbus, O. He gave me his card and repeated his promise. His name is Mr. Hughes and his residence is 209 Hamilton avenue, Columbus. I wish I could also report the arrival of the new carriage.

MARGARET J. M. SWEAT,  
Vice Regent.

### MICHIGAN STATE REPORT.

The vice regent for Michigan reports a contribution of \$250 made by the Detroit Mount Vernon Society, to be used in her work at Mount Vernon. This sum she will add to \$81 remaining from last year's contributions, making a total of \$331 in bank; which amount, and as much more as can be accumulated, will be used for the purchase of valuable Washington relics. Forty-five dollars have been expended since the last Council for a "hammercloth" for the old coach.

The Detroit Mount Vernon Society continues to do splendid work, the details of which are so well given in the annual report of its ex-president, Mrs. Crapo-Smith, that I will ask permission to read it. Her successor, Mrs. H. Fyfe, will, I feel sure, add to the prestige of the Society.

In bank . . . . .	\$ 81.00
Contributed by Detroit Mt. Vernon Society . .	250.00
	<u>\$331.00</u>

Respectfully submitted,  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
Vice Regent.

### MISSOURI STATE REPORT.

The interest in the work of the Mount Vernon Association is growing steadily in this state. The story of Miss Cunningham's heroic struggle and patriotic devotion has been distributed among club women and those engaged in the work of the various patriotic societies.

In some instances I have had notes expressing pleasure in the memorial. The Sons of the Revolution continue the interest which they have manifested in the past, and I have sent to the Regent a check for \$53.50, the sum collected at their annual service in Christ Church cathedral at St. Louis.

CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM,  
Vice Regent for Missouri.

**NEBRASKA STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Nebraska has no report other than that she distributed the Reports for 1903, and other Mount Vernon literature.

REBEKAH S. MANDERSON,  
Vice Regent.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE REPORT.**

The vice regent for New Hampshire reports that she distributed seventy-five copies of the Memorial to Miss Cunningham, also the Reports for 1903.

ABBY R. WINDER,  
Vice Regent.

**NEW JERSEY STATE REPORT.**

The vice regent for New Jersey has not much to report, as she has not asked for any donations this year. Eight dollars have been given by ladies in Princeton and ten dollars by others in Elizabeth. A set of cups and saucers, for the use of the vice regents when in session, has been presented, and the money remaining in the vice regent's hands is reserved for the future purchase of relics.

HELEN F. CONOVER,  
Vice Regent.

**NEW YORK STATE REPORT.**

I have endeavored to increase in my state the Mount Vernon interest by distributing the annual reports and otherwise calling attention to the important work in progress at the home of Washington. I much regret that there is not a fund available for the purchase of relics and for securing some of the valuable books and accounts of Washington that are constantly being sold in New York. I purchased boxes for cut flowers, gave the die to be used for marking them. Had the picture of Washington framed, in the Banquet Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
AMY TOWNSEND,  
Vice Regent.

### **NORTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.**

No report of special interest from my state. Mount Vernon literature was generally distributed. Repeated invitations were received to give a report of the work at Mount Vernon by the various clubs of the state.

Respectfully submitted,

L. MOREHEAD WALKER,  
Vice Regent.

### **RHODE ISLAND STATE REPORT.**

The vice regent for Rhode Island regrets that from severe illness but little work has been accomplished. Fifty dollars were contributed towards the purchase of the Washington pitchers gotten by the vice regent of Georgia. The Memorial of Miss Cunningham was distributed to the libraries and Historical Society of the state, as suggested, and was greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

A. I. C. D. AMES,  
Vice Regent.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.**

The vice regent has had great pleasure in distributing the memorial sketch of Miss Cunningham and has been gratified by the great interest and appreciation shown by every one who has read it. The vice regent sent copies to each of the libraries in the state, also to each public school in Charleston, Columbia, Georgetown, etc. No donations to report. Twenty-five dollars in hand from sale of rug from South Carolina room.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,  
Vice Regent.

### **TEXAS STATE REPORT.**

The vice regent for Texas reports that one hundred volumes of the Memorial to Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham

have been placed in public and private libraries and the reports for 1908 have been distributed. Mrs. Alsdorf Faulkner of Austin, Texas, has given for the use of the Texas room a very handsome blue and white counterpane, which was woven by her husband's mother over sixty years ago. Linen covers have been provided for the table of the committee room in the East quarters.

The Thankful Hubbard chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Colonial Dames in Texas, continue to manifest, in a substantial way, their interest in Mount Vernon.

The following contributions have been received:

Mr. George J. McCarthy . . . . .	\$25.00
Colonial Dames in Texas . . . . .	10.00
Mrs. Huntington . . . . .	75.00
Thankful Hubbard Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution . . . . .	10.00

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES C. MAXEY,

Vice Regent.

#### WEST VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.

The vice regent has the pleasure to report the loan, by Mrs. S. Fisher Morris, of a locket containing the hair of George Washington on one side and that of Alexander Hamilton on the other. This locket was given to Miss Charlotte Morris by a member of the Hamilton family. It now belongs to Miss Charlotte Morris, grand niece of the former, and she places it at Mount Vernon as a loan, subject to her recall.

The reports of last year were carefully distributed; also many copies of the delightful and instructive life of our founder, Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, published by our Association as a memorial of her. This last has, in many cases, most satisfactorily answered the desire for information in regard to the history of the movement to save the

home and tomb of Washington, we hope for all time, and resulted in greatly increased interest throughout the state, in the history of George Washington, the Father of his Country, and his home—historic Mount Vernon.

Respectfully submitted,  
SARAH PENDLETON VAN RENSSELAER,  
Vice Regent.

#### **VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.**

The vice regent for Virginia has distributed Memorials to Miss Cunningham, and also reports. By the invitation of the president of the society of the D. A. R. of Harrisonburg, she gave a talk upon the work and history of the Mount Vernon Association, before the members of that society.

Upon the occasion of the re-interment of the remains of the wife and daughter of President Monroe, beside his tomb in Hollywood cemetery, at Richmond, the vice regent for Virginia represented the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, and sent beautiful flowers from General Washington's greenhouses, which were placed upon the graves.

EMMA R. BALL,  
Vice Regent.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.**

**TO THE REGENT AND VICE REGENTS OF THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION:**

**LADIES:—**This, my report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1904, covers a period of unusual activity and interest. What has been accomplished in the furtherance of your directions for the protection and improvement of this honored estate will presently appear, and I trust your inspection of the property will satisfy you that my humble efforts have not been wanting in beneficial results. While the expenses have been extraordinarily heavy, due to the important work ordered by last Council, you will be gratified to learn that, with the exception of 1902, when the Grand Army encampment at Washington added so largely to our revenue, the fiscal year just closed records the greatest number of visitors Mount Vernon has ever had.

The total number was 89,998.

No violent storms occurred, but a long and rigorous winter and tardy development of spring frustrated the advancement of much I had hoped to achieve. From November until March there was ice in the Potomac, and frequent falls of snow and rain made the prospect for work at times almost hopeless. Nevertheless we managed to get through with practically all that was expected, as the following statement will show:

### **CORNER STONE.**

At last Council, among other things brought to your attention, I pointed out the condition of the ancient corner stone of this mansion. The exposed surface of the stone was disintegrating—due to age and the cellar dampness—and the Lawrence Washington insignia thereon was nearly effaced.

By your permission I removed the stone temporarily for treatment, first making a careful drawing of the original

chiselling to insure perfect reproduction. A process called nicolite was then applied for hardening and rendering it impervious to dampness, after which the tablet was safely returned to its niche.

#### MANSION FOUNDATION.

A few other stones in the foundation walls, showing disintegration, were similarly treated as an experiment that you might see the effect and determine whether or not the entire foundation shall be treated. I also applied nicolite to the soft sandstone facade of the old tomb.

After the lapse of eight months I am forced to the conclusion that this process cannot be relied upon for permanent benefit.

Experts at the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, and at the Institute of Technology at Boston, have had the hardening of this porous sandstone under careful consideration, but as yet have discovered no effectual remedy.

Colonel Allen, U. S. engineer, has recommended a trial of an English preparation, the merits of which, after fifty years of use in England and elsewhere, bear high testimony. I have sent for a small quantity of the ingredients for the purpose of further experiment.

I very much regret to say that when the nicolite process was applied here last summer, one of the workmen, after leaving Mount Vernon, was interviewed by a newspaper reporter and, possibly with the view of exploiting the nicolite, grossly exaggerated the condition of the mansion foundation.

Prone to sensationalism, this reporter published a most startling account of the "Peril of Washington's Home." Many papers copied the article and much unnecessary alarm was thereby caused.

I will state briefly that during the period of 180 years, which has elapsed since the building of the mansion foundation, some of the huge sandstone blocks—softer than



others—have scaled off on the exposed surface to the depth of less than an inch. While the weight-resisting strength of the stones has not been seriously impaired, I have, from time to time, deemed it advisable to replace several such stones with hard brick. The cellar timbers too, you know, have been looked after in the same manner, and guarding thus against any possible weakness, the house has been preserved.

Not wishing to depend wholly upon my own judgment of the case, I requested one of the most prominent of engineers and builders, Capt. Bernard R. Green, to make an exhaustive examination of the mansion—from cellar to attic—for the purpose of determining what is needed to strengthen it permanently.

Captain Green's communication is as follows:

May 6, 1904.

H. H. DODGE, Esq.,

Custodian, Mt. Vernon-on-the-Potomac, Va.

MY DEAR SIR:

During my pleasant visit at Mount Vernon this afternoon I had a good view of the cellar walls and foundations of the mansion, and took occasion to inspect not only these walls and foundations, which are built partly of the old Potomac or Aquia Creek sandstone and partly of brick, but also the floors, woodwork and stairways of the superstructure throughout. My examination of the stone and brickwork of the cellar walls was mainly induced by a newspaper report of last fall, of the alleged experimentation by an agent of a stone preserving process to arrest the decay that was said to be going on in the walls referred to.

It gives me great pleasure to assure you that there is but very little decay, or, more properly speaking, exfoliation or crumbling away of the surfaces, and this in small stones and at scattered points. This may be very easily and inexpensively repaired at any convenient time, and the

walls rendered secure from further decay for many years to come.

The installation of the warm water heating apparatus in the cellar, while being a most valuable, effective and safe means of warming the building in cold weather, and, what is of the highest importance, keeping the cellar dry whenever in operation, incidentally dries the boards of the first story floors so much that they shrink in winter and enlarge the cracks or joints between them to an undesirable extent. This arises largely from the fact that the old floor is a single layer of boards without protection underneath in the cellar. In the summer time the cellar, being well ventilated, is naturally somewhat damp from the condensation of the moisture from the warm summer air passing through the cellar. This causes the floor boards to swell again. I feel quite sure that it would be an important improvement for the better protection of these boards from either the moisture of the summer time, or the warm air from the heating apparatus in the winter time, if the floors were ceiled below the joists with wire or expanded metal lath and plaster. This would not be an expensive piece of work, as it need not be done with reference to appearance.

In the upper part of the house some shrinkages and cracks have occurred in some of the very wide panels in the old wooden wainscoting. This was an inevitable consequence of a better warming of the house in winter, and I apprehend that the slight blemishes thus caused will not increase.

The plastered ceiling of the main hall has become cracked and probably loosened in places from the incessant travel of visitors over the floor and on the stairs. This can be easily and very permanently repaired, when thought desirable, by renewing the plaster which has already been once patched where the old arch across the hall was removed a few years since.

I think the house as a whole is standing firm and showing no serious indication of weakness. The careful and watchful attention that is given it from year to year is sure to preserve it indefinitely by making all repairs and reinforcements as soon as the needs become apparent.

Yours very truly,

BERNARD R. GREEN,  
Civil Engineer.

#### LANDSLIDE.

The most important and expensive work of the year has been the drainage tunnel for the prevention of landslides. Mr. J. R. Archer, a mining engineer of experience, was invited to examine the situation, make careful study of all conditions and submit a report thereon. By means of a drill the depth and pitch of the underlying strata were determined, and the quicksands located.

A map was prepared, showing the result of these bearings, and with an explanatory report, was submitted to the Regent and also to the chairman of the grounds committee. The report and recommendations of Mr. Archer were approved and he was employed to personally direct the construction of tunnels to penetrate the hillside in a direction crossing the line of the subterranean watercourses, thus intercepting and carrying them off through pipes to the river. The work of excavation was begun the latter part of July—just as soon as expert mining laborers could be secured—and is now accomplished with results, as to the flow of water, which have astonished us.

Two tunnels were found necessary, one of 272 feet near the buildings, the other of 129 feet near the old tomb. After digging with great difficulty through broken clay and iron cemented sands, the stratum of water-soaked quicksands was encountered, adding danger as well as greater difficulty in tunnelling through it. The free vent afforded by the drain that was cut showed the surprising amount of

water released, the flow for a long time being as high as 50,000 gallons in twenty-four hours. The deep stratum of sand has now been relieved of its liquid burden and is drained down to its blue clay base where the channels have been cut by the drainage ditch, whence a normal flow of about 15,000 gallons now issues. Even this quantity is unexpectedly great, and shows how dangerously saturated were the hillsides where formerly it made slow exit.

Those hillside springs and bogs are now rapidly drying out, which means there need be no further fear of landslides occurring there.

The substantial timbering of the tunnels is of a character calculated to last many years, and it seems advisable to let the tunnels remain open, as they now are, for at least a year, so that the effect of changing seasons on the water-flow may be studied, and any alterations, if necessary, in the plan of permanent lining, be determined.

The engineer's report, on file, will more fully explain the details of this improvement.

Should these tunnel streams continue to flow steadily in the present volume, I find it will be possible to use the power for pumping from the artesian well to the tanks and cisterns on top of the hill. This will be a boon indeed.

#### PAVEMENTS.

A marked and permanent improvement to the grounds was the laying of brick pavements in the place of board and clay gravel walks.

The north and south approaches to the mansion, the long walk below the kitchen, the stretch from new tomb to the wharf, and the path from old tomb to the summer house, were paved, a total of about 12,000 square feet.

On the hillside below the summer house a flight of brick steps was built, connecting the walk along the deer park terrace with the winding path to the old tomb.

Before constructing the pavement leading down the hill from the kitchen it was necessary to lay a large drain pipe with suitable inlets to take the place of the old surface gutter there. The grading incidental to these improvements was considerable and the subsequent adding of embankments adjacent to the walks consumed much time, but I feel sure you will be pleased with the result.

#### ROADWAYS.

As Council directed, I reconstructed the carriage road leading from the north lodge to the gateway of the bowling green. The clay surface was removed down to the proper grade, and made compact by the use of a heavy roller. Broken stone was then laid on to a depth of five inches, as a base course, this rolled to a solid depth of four inches and covered with red clay gravel to a compactly rolled thickness of four inches additional.

On inspecting the work, the chairman of the grounds committee obtained the Regent's consent to replace the old cobblestone gutters bordering a part of this road with new gutters of smaller and more uniform stone. This gives a finished effect very pleasing to visitors entering the grounds at the north lodge gate. The surfaces of the old roads leading to the west lodge gate and to the wharf were much disturbed by the frost and hauling during last winter, but the use of a road machine has put them in temporary good form again.

They cannot permanently resist the effect of frost and heavy rainfall until surfaced with some such rigid material as broken stone.

The bare and unsightly embankment bordering the carriage-way between the tomb and wharf was properly sloped and bedded with honeysuckle. This will prevent further rain wash, and the gradual spread of the vines will secure the entire hillside.

## FILLING BACK OF SEA WALL.

I am glad to report that the earth filling back of the long stretch of sea wall, east of the wharf, has been accomplished. The mud was dredged from the river bed last autumn and allowed to settle until this spring, when it was sufficiently firm to be leveled and sown with rye. When the irregular edges of the old river bank are sloped down to meet this fill and covered with honeysuckle, a long-existing blemish will be happily changed to a feature of attractiveness.

## SWAMP.

The annual clearing of the swamp ditches and the grubbing of young brush thereabouts, had attention.

## GROUNDS.

Many of the old trees near the mansion were improved by cutting away broken or dead branches, and giving them more symmetrical shape.

The gaps in the row of cedars near the north lodge gate were filled by transplanting young trees from a distance. These trees were dug during the winter when it was possible to lift them with large frozen balls of earth, so that their roots were not disturbed in the moving. Even though the greatest care was exercised in the moving of these cedars, it is questionable whether they will live. Several crepe myrtles, which are outgrowing their proper limits in the garden, were changed to favorable positions near the entrance ways. The disfigurements of the turf where visitors had worn a path between the summer house and old tomb were corrected by resodding. Mowing, raking and rolling the lawns had its share of attention. Compost was applied last autumn and grass seed to some portions this spring. The steep hillside near the summer house was covered with sods of myrtle. Mrs. Van Ness,

of Boston, planted a Lexington elm; this by permission of a former Council.

April 9, 1904, a small oak was planted near the old tomb by Hon. E. A. Hitchcock, Secretary of the Interior. This little tree has considerable interest, as the following statement of Mr. Hitchcock narrates:

April 9, 1904.

**MEMO:**—While ambassador at the court of St. Petersburg, I made inquiry with respect to the disposition of some acorns that the Hon. Charles Sumner, while United States senator from Massachusetts, is said to have sent to His Imperial Majesty, the Czar, the acorns having been taken from a massive oak shading the original tomb of Washington at Mount Vernon.

These acorns were planted on what is known as "Czarina Island," which is included in the superb surroundings of one of the palaces of His Imperial Majesty near Peterhof, and there I found a beautiful oak with a tablet at its feet, bearing a Russian inscription, the translation of which is as follows:

"The acorn planted here was taken from an oak which shades the tomb of the celebrated and never-to-be-forgotten Washington; is presented to His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of all the Russians, as a sign of the greatest respect.

BY AN AMERICAN."

I was fortunate at the time of my visit, which was in the fall of 1898, in finding a number of acorns on the ground that had been dropped from this historic tree. Gathering a handful I sent them home, and secured from the seed thus planted a few oak saplings, one of which is here and now planted nearby its grandparent, which is still in existence at Mount Vernon. I hope it will reach such age and strength as will, for years to come, typify the continued friendship of the governments and people, respectively, of the United States and Russia, each for the other.

E. A. HITCHCOCK.

## GARDENS.

Carrying out the suggestion of the kitchen garden committee, a small arbor was constructed at the end of the gravel walk on lower terrace and fronting the garden gate. The trenching of the soil, as advised, I was forced to postpone, because all available labor was required on the more urgent tasks which have consumed the whole year. The routine garden work, however, was not neglected. The cultivation of vegetables, the coverings and uncoverings of strawberries and fig bushes, at proper seasons, pruning grape vines, currants, gooseberries, raspberries and wall fruits; weeding the walks and sowing the borders.

Cold frames were utilized for lettuce, parsley, radishes, peas, etc.

Asparagus and rhubarb beds were covered with compost and spaded in this spring, when nitrate of soda was applied to the former wood ashes, and high grade fertilizers were used on strawberries with beneficial results.

The early blooms, however, were caught by frost late in April, hence I am unable to supply your table with the fruit as I did last year.

## SMOKE HOUSE FOUNDATION.

The foundation walls of the old smoke house, having crumbled with age, were rebuilt, care being taken to copy the original "English bond" in laying the courses. I was lucky enough to find a sufficient quantity of ancient bricks to reproduce the old effect exactly.

## COLONNADES.

The colonnades connecting the office and kitchen with the mansion required the entire reconstruction of the twenty-six wooden columns. Preparatory for this I replaced the rotted timber coping with brick laid in cement, and as a base for each column used stone blocks. The columns and base blocks were painted and sanded to correspond with the finish of the mansion sheathing.



#### PAINTING BUILDINGS.

The mansion and adjacent buildings were painted, as were also the greenhouses, and for the latter some reglazing was necessary. The iron fence of the deer park and the railing around the monuments at the tomb were given one coat of black asphaltum paint. The paling boundary fence adjoining the north lodge gate was color-washed, and the stables, sheds and surrounding fences received their periodical applications of whitewash.

#### WHARF REPAIRS.

In June it was found necessary to replace a number of wornout piles constituting the fenders which prevent the steamboat coming in contact with the wharf cribbing. The wear and tear on these fenders is considerable and they have to be often renewed. The oak flooring in front of the wharf house was renewed and the wharf steps repaired.

#### FENCE AT WEST END OF BOWLING GREEN.

Many of the heavy timber sills which support the frame fence at east end of the bowling green were renewed and the fence replaced, after which all was painted.

#### MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS.

In addition to the before mentioned items of repair and improvement of the estate may be mentioned others of miscellaneous character, which had our attention.

Temporary storm walks laid to mansion during the winter.

Cabin built for tunnel laborers.

Partition constructed in laundry.

Woodwork and mantel in Washington's room painted and walls calcimined.

Partition and closet in Kansas quarters painted.

Paneling and papering in mansion repaired.

Sleeping room over office calcimined.

Fences and gates strengthened.

Eave gutters of buildings cleaned and repaired.

Well house floor renewed.

Made fly screens for lavatory windows.

Wire screens for windows and doors repaired.

Converted old silo into chicken house.

Built fodder racks for cows and feeding troughs for sheep and deer.

Repaired the steam pumps, lawn mowers, harness, tools, etc.

#### FARM.

Despite the unusual rainfall last June, which interfered so with farming operations, we secured a fairly good crop of hay. The oats (five acres) were a failure. The wheat crop was very light, but the corn yielded especially well.

Last autumn ten acres were seeded to wheat and timothy, being followed this spring with clover. I have in preparation twenty-one acres for corn and three acres for peas. Eight acres of timothy and clover promise well for hay this season. A cargo of manure, ordered last autumn, was delayed by ice and not delivered until early in April, when our fields were too soft for hauling over. This is available for future application.

By using a portable wire fence to confine them, the sheep were pastured on the different lawns in rotation, with benefit to both the turf and the sheep. During the winter the old stable and barnyard afforded a secure and comfortable sheepfold.

The flooring of stalls in the horse stable was renewed and the drainage therefrom corrected.

#### LIVE STOCK.

Our live stock consists now of four horses, one colt, two mules (these latter received through the kindness of the vice regent for Kentucky) five cows, two heifers, one bull, twenty deer, twenty-one sheep and twenty-six lambs.

One horse, one cow and four deer died during the winter.

The handsome black Langshan chickens have increased and are doing well.

There are six peafowls.

To afford better sanitary accommodations for the cows I built a frame stable, adjoining the hay barracks, extending our water main to a trough there, and enclosed a corner of the lot wherein they could have proper exercise when not in pasture.

#### TEAM WORK.

Besides the regular coach service, our teams had much to do in hauling brick and sand for the pavers, lumber for repairs, gravel for roads, soil and sod for grading, leaves and rubbish from lawns, coal and wood to the boiler room, trees for transplanting, compost for lawns and farm. For the greater utility in connection with our team work we need a low-g geared wagon with broad tires.

#### DAY LABORERS.

For the steady and unremitting care and improvement of the estate, the employment of a few day laborers is essential. With the increasing demand for labor in Washington, at the nearby forts and at a neighboring brick yard, there has been a raise in wages to which I had to, partially, conform. In order to hold the men we need I was obliged to yield to their request and pay them \$1.25 per day. Their work the past year has been somewhat as follows:

Cutting fallen wood in our woods, burning brush, plowing for, cultivating and securing crops, mowing and raking lawns, grading roads and walks, cutting and laying sod, clearing swamp ditches, cutting and packing ice, etc.

#### EMPLOYEES.

I regret having to report several changes in last year's list of regular employes. Christian Stout, the coachman,

resigned June 1, on account of the ill health of himself and family. William Stout was appointed in his stead.

John A. Brown, waiter, was discharged for ill conduct, his place being filled January 1, by William Holland.

Oswald Quaas, assistant gardener, resigned March 1, to accept a better position. Werner Anderson succeeded him on March 15.

Alfred Jasper, guard at tomb, died March 7. The Regent directed me to pay the expenses of his funeral. On April 1, Edward Hammond was chosen for the vacancy.

#### TOMB.

The four stated occasions for decorating the tomb were May 30, July 4, December 14, 1903, and February 22, 1904. The national flag was raised for each event and evergreens were displayed to best advantage.

No repairs have been needed for the tomb itself, but the marble shafts near it have been cleaned and the adjacent walk graded and supported by a brick revetment wall.

A proposition is made by Mrs. Sarah Bowman Van Ness, of Massachusetts, to make a permanent display of the national flag over Washington's sarcophagus, by draping the colors against the ceiling of the tomb. For this purpose she has sent her check for \$50, but the acceptance awaits Council's decision.

#### COAL.

The purchase of our winter supply of coal was effected last July, the furnace coal (seventy-five tons) costing \$5.70 per ton and stove coal (twenty-five tons), \$5.95. By dint of economy and the supplemental use of wood, which was cut from the fallen timber on the estate, we managed to make the one hundred tons suffice, though the winter was unusually long and trying.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS.

We have again to thank Miss McFadden for two handsome flags. For several years past she has sent, in time

for the Birthday celebration, two new service flags for use at Mount Vernon.

From a lady in Cambridge, Mass., I received a pair of Mrs. Washington's silk shoes, and placed them temporarily in the Conrad relic case.

Miss Mary Lee loaned a set of bed curtains worked by Martha Washington, also an old window drapery used by the Washingtons at Philadelphia and Mount Vernon.

General P. C. Rust, of New York, sent the two oil portraits which Council accepted in 1902. One is of Major Eskridge, the guardian of Washington's mother. The other is (presumably) of Mrs. Eskridge.

Mr. Frederick Gilbert Bourne, of New York, made a cash donation of \$20.

#### BOAT SERVICE.

On December 5, the daily boat service was discontinued and not until March 28 was it resumed. During that period the free transportation by rail of Mount Vernon employes and freight was arranged for by the president of the Steamboat Company.

On January 1, the Electric Railway Company increased the transportation rates on their line, making the round trip fare between Washington and Mount Vernon seventy-five cents instead of fifty cents. The Boat Company made a similar increase on resuming its trips, March 28.

Visitors complained of this, thinking the Association was party to the change of rates—a misapprehension I was able to correct.

#### REQUEST FOR PHOTOGRAPHS.

Requests are frequent for permission to use Mount Vernon photographs in illustrating articles. Some of them, from sources of assured reliability, the Regent granted. Among these were the "Ladies' Home Journal" and "Country Life in America," their publications being of high order and special attractiveness. See the February

number of "Ladies' Home Journal" and April number of "Country Life in America," which show most creditably the scenic gems of this place.

Such publications cannot fail to incite more widespread interest in Washington's home, and induce an added number of people each year to visit it.

#### GUIDE BOOKS.

A new edition of the Guide Book was published in December last. The only changes therein were the substitution of a better picture of the barn, and a more recent one of the banquet hall, taken since the removal of the Peale equestrian portrait. A slight alteration of the text (relative to this portrait) was essential.

#### INSURANCE.

In June, 1903, the policies of fire insurance on the Mount Vernon property were renewed for three years. The Peale portrait of Washington, on deposit with the Corcoran Gallery of Art, was insured at the same time for one year at \$2,000. This policy will expire June 16, next. Please instruct me as to its renewal.

#### RESOLUTION TO MR. RIGGS.

The resolution of thanks to Mr. Riggs, voted at last Council, was suitably engrossed on vellum and presented to our worthy treasurer.

#### CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I take pleasure in attesting the faithful attention to duty and ready cooperation of the several employes.

My especial acknowledgement for instruction, assistance and encouragement I always owe to the Regent, whose never-failing love for Mount Vernon predominates all other interests of her busy life.

I have the honor to be

Your faithful and humble servant,

HARRISON H. DODGE,

Res. Sec. and Supt.

April 30, 1904.

**REPORT OF SECRETARY FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 1, 1904.**

Wrote and had printed, 50 copies Minutes of 93 pages;  
800 copies Reports of 58 pages.

Sent to members of Council, 33 copies Minutes with  
Reports.

Distributed to individuals and societies in the state and  
elsewhere, 200 copies of Annual Reports, and forwarded the  
remainder to Mount Vernon.

**CASH ACCOUNT.**

Cost of printing Minutes and Reports . . . . .	\$93 00
Check from Regent . . . . .	93 00

**OFFICE EXPENSES.**

Typewriting and assistant . . . . .	\$20 00	
Expressage, postage, stationery . . . . .	25 00	
	<u>45 00</u>	
Regent's check . . . . .	\$50 00	
Balance, 1903 . . . . .	<u>12 00</u>	
	\$62 00	
		\$62 00
		<u>45 00</u>
Balance on hand . . . . .		\$17 00

Report of secretary accepted.

**REPORT OF GARDENER.**

Ladies: In submitting my report for fiscal year ending April 30, 1904, it will be unnecessary to call your attention to the severe winter through which we have passed, and the consequent injury to vegetation. The box-wood hedge suffered somewhat, but to my great delight is manifesting its wonderful recuperative powers, and will in a few weeks look as fine as ever. I lost a great number of roses (109 by actual count) through the severity of the weather, but have replaced them with stronger plants.

As the year's travel was forty thousand less than the previous year, the greenhouse receipts were diminished.

Receipts . . . . .	\$688 85
Expenditures for postage, etc. . . . .	10 65
Cash to superintendent . . . . .	\$678 20

Hoping that the garden may be found in satisfactory condition, and assuring you that it is the ambition of my life to serve you faithfully, and thus merit words of commendation, I am

Very respectfully yours,

FRANKLIN A. WHELAN.

Report accepted.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

### MANSION COMMITTEE.

As representing the committee on mansion, I have to report that I have made a careful examination of the building from attic to cellar and am satisfied that every precaution has been taken by the superintendent to strengthen and protect it.

The condition of the foundation walls, while serious, is not necessarily alarming.

Repairs, which the superintendent can best explain, are already planned for immediate undertaking when Council shall have adjourned.

It was especially pleasing to see how cleverly the old corner-stone was rechiseled.

The ceiling in the main hall is cracked and, in some places, the plaster is loosened from the laths, which makes it imperative that it shall be replastered.

The rubber covering of stairways and halls has saved the floors and stairs from more speedy wear. This protection is essential and should be continued.

The colonnades connecting the mansion with office and kitchen have been most substantially reconstructed; as, also, the foundation of the old smoke-house.

A. I. C. D. AMES,  
Acting Chairman.



## REPORT OF FURNITURE COMMITTEE.

The committee has examined the rooms of both the mansion and the "quarters" and finds everything in excellent order.

1. It will recommend that white dimity slip covers for the three chairs in the "spare room" be made in place of the different patterns of faded chintz now in use. These covers would match the new bed hangings.

2. Painting over the mantel in the "parlor" should be repaired.

3. The clock on pier table of same room to be cleaned and repaired.

4. That the floors of the bedrooms in the "quarters" have a coat of dressing.

5. It is recommended that the frames of the Sartain portraits of Washington be gilded.

6. That the sofa in the library be recovered with proper material.

A. I. C. D. AMES, Chairman.

HELEN F. CONOVER.

GEORGIA P. WILDER.

AMY TOWNSEND.

## REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The committee reports that the volumes are in good condition and carefully protected.

Mr. Young was requested by the committee to have the books taken down under his personal superintendence and carefully freed from dust, which duty was promptly accepted by Mr. Young. This work must be done after the adjournment of Council, as the room is occupied during sessions as a dining-room.

The committee asks that an appropriation be made by Council from the contingent fund for the purchase of books

that belonged to Washington, as opportunity may occur.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGARET J. M. SWEAT, Acting Ch'r'm.

IDA A. RICHARDSON.

PHŒBE A. HEARST.

LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON.

HELEN F. CONOVER.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

THE RELIC COMMITTEE.

The six relic cases have been opened and thoroughly cleaned. All of the relics verified by the written slips in the case. All the silver and brass articles polished. The lace which Mrs. Washington gave Gilbert Stuart when he was painting General Washington's portrait, has been removed from the case in the music room and placed in the banquet hall case.

IDA A. RICHARDSON, Chairman.

GEORGIA P. WILDER.

ABBY R. WINDER.

#### REPORT OF RECORD COMMITTEE.

Having found additional letters of importance to our history, your committee has filed them where they belong, in the record books already in the library.

The papers relating to the gifts of the Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington, the Washington pitchers, the tortoise shell snuff box, the ewer and basin and the colored print of Washington, have been received by us from the vice regents who presented them. We have also the letter giving the history of the "spread" loaned by Prof. Dixon.

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, Chairman.

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON.

JENNIE M. WARD.

#### REPORT OF TOMB COMMITTEE.

The instructions given by last Council in reference to both tombs have been faithfully carried out and they pre-

sent a good appearance. The annual decorations of the tomb by flags and flowers, on the specified days, are faithfully observed. Respectfully submitted,

L. H. WALKER, Chairman.  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
EMMA R. BALL.

#### REPORT OF GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE.

The garden and greenhouse committee, after a careful inspection of the greenhouse and garden, reports that everything is in much better condition than the long-continued cold of the past winter and spring and the interrupted work, in consequence of the illness of the gardener's assistants, led the committee to expect. A number of roses and other delicate plants were winter-killed, and the box hedges were superficially affected in spots, which are rapidly filling in now with fresh green shoots, and the hedges, which are the pride of the garden, never looked more beautiful or in better keeping.

Miss Townsend very kindly took charge of ordering the boxes to be used for cut flowers by the gardener. They are in perfect taste, and were purchased at much less expense than the sum appropriated for this purpose by Council. Miss Townsend contributed the die for the name "Mount Vernon" on the top of the boxes, thereby lessening the expense.

After a conference with the superintendent on the subject, this committee earnestly recommends that a well-trained, competent assistant gardener be secured at \$50 a month, to work under Mr. Whelan in the care of the gardens and greenhouses. The man now filling the place of first assistant, at a salary of \$40, while a good workman and fully competent for the position of second assistant, is not, in some respects, equal to the first position. With the increased number of visitors, who desire information

regarding the plants they purchase and the plants and shrubs of an historical character, as well as for other reasons, a competent assistant is needed.

The committee asks for an appropriation of \$75 for the purchase of shrubs and plants.

The gardener has made a monthly report to the acting chairman, of receipts for flowers and plants, and also, of the general condition prevailing, month by month, in his department.

The committee is preparing a list of old-fashioned shrubs and flowers, with indications where they are to be planted, to be left with the gardener for his guidance.

MARY T. BARNES,  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
MARY T. LEITER,  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,  
AMY TOWNSEND,  
FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,  
SARAH PENDLETON VAN RENSSELAER.

*Instructions for Gardener.*—Plant ivy at greenhouse, icehouse, and all other brick walls. Shrubs and plants named in Mrs. Maxey's list, to be planted at north gate. Grow always old-fashioned plants, annuals and shrubs, as per list. Replace grass borders of beds by violets, primroses and spice pinks. Place lavender iris with irises now there. Other bulbs, seeds and plants wherever suitable.

#### COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS, TREES AND SHRUBS.

This committee presents to Council the report of work done in 1903. Restoration of walk from summer house to tomb; walks on either side of the mansion; walk from wharf to the mansion. These walks have been laid in brick, with gutters and drain pipes where required. The work is well

done. Half of the road from electric railroad gate to bowling green gate is finished. The portion of filling in, behind the sea wall, which has been done and planted to grass, is very attractive and adds much to the beauty of the river view. The drainage of the hillside was commenced in July, after the engineer had submitted plans to Regent, and they had been approved. Two hundred and seventy-two feet of the tunnel is completed, and the engineer asserts in his report to Council, "Absolute safety of hill from landslides is assured." The chairman of this committee has made frequent visits to Mount Vernon during the fall and winter, to inspect this important work. Your committee approves the advice of the engineer, "that the tunnel be left open for a period of three years." Our superintendent informs us the timber lining to the tunnels will insure their safety and last many years. Trees were planted to complete row. Wild honeysuckle is planted on hillsides.

This committee recommended the following work for 1904:

Removal of old board walks from wharf to tomb, as new brick walk seems adequate.

A notice to be placed on outside of gates, stating entrance prices.

The iron rail removed surrounding Prince of Wales tree.

Trees planted; list to be submitted to Council (see list appended).

The road completed to bowling green gate, same as finished part.

Poison ivy to be removed by gardener from grounds.

The sea wall to be filled in its entire length and bank graded down; wild honeysuckle planted.

New road made from wharf to tomb.

Cobblestone gutters and low stone wall to take the place of the rail fence, which has decayed and is unsafe in

its present condition. The coping on this wall to match other wall copings on place.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY T. LEITER,

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON,

IDA R. RICHARDSON,

AMY TOWNSEND.

Later the vice regent for Texas gave \$25 to the Regent to be expended in shrubs and trees; shrubs for north gate.

List of trees to be planted on the grounds: Six box trees, two magnolia trees, three maples, two elms, and other trees as indicated by grounds and shrub committee, and suggested by superintendent. The box trees are a gift from vice regent for New York.

The proposed new road is decided by Council to be too expensive; but Council advises the building of the road *without* the wall this year, if funds will allow, but cannot make any appropriation. Two thousand dollars will be required for the road finished, with rustic fence, according to specifications by Mr. McNamara.

#### REPORT OF THE KITCHEN GARDEN COMMITTEE.

Our committee finds the kitchen garden in excellent condition.

The early spring planting has been attended to. Asparagus, lettuce, tomatoes, beans and peas are in evidence. Small fruits, such as currants, raspberries, strawberries, figs and grapes are in satisfactory condition, notwithstanding the lateness of the season.

An attractive feature has been added by the construction of a lattice arbor as a grape trellis, at the end of the gravel walk fronting the entrance gate. A gradual treatment of the stiff clay soil of the garden is advisable in order that the parching effect of the hot summer suns may be, in

a measure, reduced. The improvement in cultivation is already marked, and further good results are anticipated.

Respectfully submitted,

AMY TOWNSEND, Acting Chairman,

HARRIET C. COMEGYS,

SARAH PENDLETON VAN RENSSELAER.

#### REPORT OF FARM COMMITTEE.

On inspection of the farm we find *nine* acres of wheat in promising condition, *eight* acres in timothy and clover, and *seventeen* acres of pasture; *twenty-one* acres are being prepared for corn, and *three* acres have been put in cow peas.

We find that the yield of corn and hay last season was encouragingly good, while the oats and wheat, owing to the unusually long period of rainfall in June, were practically ruined.

The experiment with sheep has succeeded, and it is deemed advisable to afford more extensive pasturage for the flock as soon as opportunity will allow. To that end we advocate clearing and enclosing the lots from which timber was cut two years ago.

The better accommodations provided last autumn for the milch cows is found to be a great improvement over former conditions. The health of all the cows appears good.

The handsome pair of mules received from Kentucky is a much-needed addition to the stock.

So much hauling was required the past season, in connection with the various improvements then in progress, the teams were not available for what might otherwise have bettered the farming operations.

For general utility work, a low-gearred wagon with broad tires is greatly needed; will cost \$50.

We advocate also an appropriation of \$250 for manure

this year, to be applied to the farm land. The committee also recommends an appropriation of \$250 for the building of a silo, and an appropriation of \$200 for wire fencing.

Respectfully submitted,

PHŒBE A. HEARST, Chairman,  
 GEORGIA P. WILDER,  
 ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,  
 MARGARETTA M. BARRET,  
 REBEKAH S. MANDERSON.

#### COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY RULES.

Your committee reports that upon examination of various treatises upon parliamentary law, which govern legislative and popular assemblies, they are convinced that essential differences existing between such bodies and this Association, make it desirable that a form of procedure be prepared, which, while based upon established parliamentary law, may be adapted to the especial needs of Council.

MARGARET J. M. SWEAT, Chairman.  
 REBEKAH S. MANDERSON.

#### REPORT OF PRESS COMMITTEE.

The press committee sent a report of the meeting of Council, with the names of the members present and a memorandum of the usual routine of work.

The valuable gift of Mrs. Ida A. Richardson, vice regent for Louisiana, of a Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington, one of the best existing, has been reported.

Also an article with account of the work done at Mount Vernon, including the important tunnel made to drain the hillside, was sent to the papers in Washington and other cities.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER, Chairman,  
 ABBY R. WINDER,  
 HARRIET C. COMEGYS.



REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Your committee would respectfully report a faithful examination of the Regent's financial statement, and of bills and vouchers for the past year, and they find them clear and correct.

Your committee has also compared the reports of the treasurer and of the superintendent, including the accounts of the purser and of the gardener, and reports them entirely correct and satisfactory.

Total receipts for year . . . . .	\$34,478 24
Total expenditures for year . . . . .	<u>31,719 83</u>
Net balance in bank May, 1904 . . . . .	\$2,758 41

APPROXIMATE ESTIMATES AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1904 AND 1905.

Pay roll . . . . .	\$14,740 00
Secretary to Regent . . . . .	300 00
Secretary to Council . . . . .	100 00
Office expenses of secretary . . . . .	50 00
Insurance of Peale's picture . . . . .	10 00
Coal . . . . .	600 00
Coach horse . . . . .	175 00
Fertilizers . . . . .	250 00
Farm wagon . . . . .	50 00
Coach . . . . .	350 00
Mansion ceiling, hall and cellar . . . . .	200 00
Silo for cattle and sheep . . . . .	250 00
Shrubs . . . . .	100 00
Wire fencing . . . . .	200 00
Cobble stone gutter . . . . .	376 00
Greenhouse committee . . . . .	75 00
Telephone rental . . . . .	175 00
Pohick church pew rental . . . . .	90 00
Restoration to Gilbert Stuart's Washington and insurance . .	300 00
Drain pipes used in storm drainage . . . . .	250 00
Tambour desk (relic) . . . . .	2,000 00
Funeral expenses Capt. Blake . . . . .	250 00
Present to Mr. Young . . . . .	300 00
Expenses of Council . . . . .	587 00
Gratuity to servants . . . . .	50 00
Fee of attorney . . . . .	<u>50 00</u>
	\$21,878 00

The testimonial expenditure subject to judgment of Regent.

In view of the large amount reached by these appropriations, that we regard as essential, the Committee recommends that the other proposed improvements be postponed to the next Council, when the needs now existing will have been supplied, and our overplus will consequently be greater than at present.

We append to our report the accompanying letter, received by Mrs. Walker, in response to the letter addressed to Mr. Riggs, in behalf of Council, by our committee.

Respectfully submitted,

EMMA R. BALL, Chairman,  
LETITIA H. WALKER,  
IDA A. RICHARDSON,  
MARGARET J. M. SWEAT,  
JENNIE M. WARD,  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

"Fareham," New London, Conn.,  
August 28, 1903.

MRS. LETITIA WALKER,  
Vice Regent, Mt. V. L. A., Spray, N. C.

DEAR MADAM:

I received today through Mr. Dodge a handsomely engrossed copy of the resolution passed by the ladies of the Mount Vernon Association, at the Council of this year, expressing in highly laudatory terms their appreciation of my late father and of myself as treasurers of the Association. As this resolution was presented to Council by you, it seems fit that my first acknowledgment and expression of thanks should be made to you. My father's services to the Association, at a critical and trying stage of its history, were great, probably alone making the continuation of that history possible. These services were actuated by a pure

patriotism and, as you aptly put it, "by an abiding faith in woman's integrity."

That his efforts were not in vain—that Mount Vernon was saved and the finances secure—was his reward and his gratification in his lifetime. My own duties and responsibilities have been so easy and free from worry or apprehension, that they do not merit mention in comparison. It is a privilege and an honor to thus be united to those who manage and direct the affairs of a noble trust.

Allow me, then, my dear madam, to return to you and through you, to the ladies of the finance committee, my appreciative thanks, and to subscribe myself

Your obliged and sincere friend,

E. FRANCIS RIGGS, Treasurer.

### **LIST OF COMMITTEES.**

Regent announced the following list of committees:

#### **FINANCE.**

Mrs. Ball, chairman; Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Rathbone.

#### **MANSION.**

Mrs. Flandrau, chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Goldsborough, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Ames.

#### **FURNITURE.**

Mrs. Ames, chairman; Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Graham, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Harrison.

#### **LIBRARY.**

Miss Longfellow, chairman; Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Johnston.

#### **GROUNDS AND SHRUBS.**

Mrs. Leiter, chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Richardson.

#### **GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE.**

Mrs. Barnes, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Leiter, Mrs. Wilder, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Maxey, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

Mrs. Harrison, chairman; Miss Townsend, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

FARM.

Mrs. Hearst, chairman; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Barret.

TOMB.

Mrs. Walker, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Goldsborough, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Ball.

RELICS.

Mrs. Richardson, chairman; Mrs. Winder, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Wilder.

RECORDS.

Miss Comegys, chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Ward.

BY-LAWS.

Mrs. Richardson, chairman; Mrs. Winder, Mrs. Ames, Mrs. Manderson.

INDEX.

Mrs. Flandrau, chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Winder.

PARLIAMENTARY RULES.

Mrs. Sweat, chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Manderson.

PRESS.

Mrs. Wilder, chairman; Mrs. Winder, Miss Longfellow, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Harrison.

## LIST OF LOANS AND GIFTS.

Mount Vernon has been very fortunate this year in the matter of gifts of relics and loans of interesting articles. Besides the gift from Mrs. Richardson, of Louisiana, of the original Gilbert Stuart portrait of General Washington, owned by Miss Richardson, of Kentucky, there are many others mentioned in the various reports which are grouped together here.

Miss Mary Lee loaned a set of bed curtains, worked by Mrs. Washington, and an old window drapery used by the Washingtons at Philadelphia and Mount Vernon.

A pair of Mrs. Washington's silk shoes, from a lady in Cambridge, Mass.

The two flags from Miss McFadden.

Mr. Frederic Gilbert Bowen, New York, a cash donation of \$50.

The vice regent for Maine placed in the relic case a gift from Mrs. Lyman Tiffany, of New York and Washington, D. C., of a tortoise shell snuff box, a mourning brooch and a pair of seed pearl ear-rings once possessed by the Washingtons.

Miss Comegys, vice regent for Delaware, read the following letter to Council:

"Early in the year 1852, Miss Nancy Sheetz gave *with her own hand* a cut-glass decanter to Sarah R. Bowman, saying *it was given to her* by President George Washington as a parting gift, when she was leaving Mount Vernon, after being there eight years as seamstress for Lady Washington. Miss Nancy had been summoned to her home, near Philadelphia, by illness of her mother.

When he presented the decanter, General Washington was in full uniform.

The decanter was full of choice wine, *which was used* in the Sheetz family at weddings and christenings.

Nancy Sheetz' father had a paper mill on the Wissa-

hickon, above Philadelphia, and she often told Sarah R. Bowman 'she could well remember when Benjamin Franklin wheeled a barrow out the ridge road to her father's paper mill, and sat and smoked a pipe with her father, in the chimney corner, then wheeled his load of paper back to the city.'

Nancy was then a child. She was much past 90 years when she gave the decanter to S. R. Bowman.

Nancy Sheetz was a twin sister of the mother-in-law of Robert Binst, the great florist of Philadelphia, at that time. His residence was near Darley, Pa., where Miss Nancy died.

It was on the direct turnpike from Chestnut hill to Barren hill that Nancy Sheetz lived for many years in an old stone house, one-story and embowered in choice roses and vines from Mr. Binst's.

She lived alone, with a lad to till the garden and care for the cow and swine and poultry. Her little farm of ten or fifteen acres joined the playground of a private school, which was taught by Sarah R. Bowman, whose unusual love for flowers delighted Miss Nancy, and they became very intimate during six years that Miss Bowman taught that school.

The latter part of that time Miss Nancy grew so feeble that she was taken to Mr. Binst's home, and in one of Miss Bowman's calls there to see her, Miss Nancy gave some cocoons of silk worms she had raised—her 'parting gift'—as she died soon after.

Roger Bowman, a Quaker, from Derbyshire, England, lived in Philadelphia, very near 'President Washington'—as he called him.

When the seat of government was moved from Philadelphia to Washington, the president, who was fond of the genial old Quaker, *presented him with a chair* as a 'parting gift.' I inherited that chair from my aunt, Sarah Bowman Wainright, of Merion, on Pennsylvania railroad, six miles from Philadelphia.

Roger Bowman was my great grandfather. He and his son Henry and all their descendants are buried in the cemetery of Merion Friends' Meeting, which was built in 1695 (date on stone in the gable). That old meeting house

now has the wooden peg in the preacher's gallery, where William Penn hung his hat.

The Bowman homestead was one-third of a mile from that meeting house, and from Philadelphia the 'Washington chair' was moved there, and guarded and treasured by three generations, but never left the shelter of that roof, until I received it thirty-five years ago. It is very dark mahogany, and the family tradition is that Lafayette had given it to General Washington—which is quite possible, as the carving in the back is surely a fleur de lis. \* \* I have also two genuine mahogany chairs of similar size, which belonged to Benjamin Franklin, and were bought by my great uncle, from one of the family of Sarah Bache, who was Franklin's daughter.

Many years ago I bought in New Haven, Conn., a quaint and perfect little wineglass, with the assurance that it belonged to Jonathan Trumbull ('Brother Jonathan').

I will sell these articles, chairs, decanter and wineglass, for \$400.

Most respectfully,

SARAH R. BOWMAN,  
West Chester, Penn."

The vice regent for Michigan offered to purchase the chair for the Association, and vice regent for South Carolina, the decanter. The wineglass was made a gift by Mrs. Bowman. The offers were gratefully accepted by Council and the relics are all now at Mount Vernon.

Mrs. Ames, vice regent for Rhode Island, reports the gift of an old print in color, of General Washington, made in Paris in 1797.

A fine engraving is found here, presented to Mount Vernon by Mrs. George Hearst, the 29th of July, 1890. This was the original engraving, evidently, from which the colored print just presented to Mount Vernon, by Miss Charlotte F. Daily, of Providence, R. I., was copied.

Mr. James M. Lamberton presented through Mrs. Harrison, vice regent of Pennsylvania, a photograph of Masonic emblems used at the sesqui-centennial anniversary of the initiation of General Washington into Free Masonry; and a

souvenir plate given by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania A. F. & A. M., at the same anniversary, held in Philadelphia, Wednesday, November 5, 1902.

Also received from Mrs. Harrison, an exquisite miniature of General Washington (by Birch), loaned to the Association by Mr. John McHenry, of Baltimore, Md.

Mrs. Frances V. Washington, of Washington, D. C., requested that a medal presented by Miss Martha B. Washington, of Charleston, S. C., great-grand-daughter of Col. Wm. Washington, be attached to the portrait of the Colonel now at Mount Vernon. Request was granted.

Mrs. Wilder, of Georgia, brought to Council a pair of lava pitchers, marked G. W., 1775, owned by General Washington and given by him to Governor Sessions, of Rhode Island; also a pair of coasters, marked G. W., 1776. These relics mentioned in her report of last year she has secured for Mount Vernon.

Rev. Mr. Everard Meade, rector of old Pohick church, called on the ladies, and extended an invitation to them to be present at the services on the Sabbath, and to lunch with his family after church. Several of the ladies accompanied the Regent to the historic old Pohick and enjoyed the hospitalities of the rector and the services held amid associations so closely connected with Washington's own life.

The vice regent for Delaware reports the gift from Mr. Walter Morris, of Dover, Del., of a black wedge-wood coffee pot, bought in Philadelphia by his great-grandmother when General Washington was president.

Moved by vice regent for Maine, seconded by vice regent for Louisiana, and carried, that the gift of \$50 offered for flags to decorate the interior of tomb, be declined with thanks.

Mrs. Ames, of Rhode Island, presented a dark blue pitcher over one hundred years old, the gift of Miss Ellen Dall Anderson, which was gratefully accepted.



Governor Montague, of Virginia, appointed the following gentlemen as members of the board of visitors to Mount Vernon, for the term of one year, commencing April 11, 1904:

Archer Anderson, Richmond, Va.  
 Thomas Smith, Warrenton, Va.  
 Gardner L. Boothe, Alexandria, Va.  
 Richard B. Davis, Petersburg, Va.  
 A. Moore, Berryville, Va.

The governor and three of the members of the board, viz., Col. Archer Anderson, Col. Thomas Smith, Mr. Gardner L. Boothe, visited Mount Vernon on Tuesday, the 17th.

Colonel Smith was accompanied by Mrs. Smith.

After a collation served in the library, the governor expressed his gratification at the condition of Mount Vernon in very pleasing terms.

Senator Manderson, of Iowa, followed, commending the Association on the manner in which they have carried out their trust, so sacred and patriotic.

The visitors left by afternoon boat.

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A contract was drawn up by Mr. Darlington, the legal adviser secured by the Regent, and an agreement made with the Mount Vernon and Marshall Hall Steamboat Co., by which the service of the steamer Macalester is secured for the coming year.

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Mrs. Flandrau, vice regent for Minnesota, writes regretting absence from Council.

Mrs. Denby, vice regent for Indiana, finds it impossible to be present. Sends state report.

Miss Longfellow is absent in Europe; Mrs. Hill, of Colorado, also sailed recently for Europe; Mrs. Harrison, of

Pennsylvania, regrets that she cannot be at Council; Mrs. Webb, of Tennessee, reports that, at the last moment, she finds it impossible to attend.

Mrs. Graham regrets her absence from Council, on account of illness in her family, and sends a donation of \$50.50 from Sons of the Revolution of Missouri. Sent state report later.

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A bit of interesting history was furnished by a letter from Mr. Samuel W. Dewey to Miss Cunningham, first Regent, dated Philadelphia, December 24, 1859. He describes the efforts made from 1846 to 1848, to secure the passage of a bill by congress for the purchase of Mount Vernon for a soldiers' home. He also refers to the Washington coach, then at Philadelphia, now at Mount Vernon.

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The painting, a copy by Gilbert Stuart of his original portrait of Washington, mentioned by Mrs. Richardson, vice regent for Louisiana, in her state report, was then brought in and shown to Council, and presented by Mrs. Richardson to the Association (as it had been made a gift to her personally.) The ladies of Council all rose to their feet to express their delight at the invaluable gift, and their sincere thanks to the donor, who secured it by her untiring zeal for the interests of Mount Vernon.

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The matter of revision of the by-laws was introduced by Mrs. Richardson, the chairman of that committee, in a very able and interesting account of their condition and form, at the time of her entrance upon the work at Mount Vernon as vice regent.

Mrs. Sweat, vice regent for Maine, followed with a clear and succinct account of their formation out of the necessities arising from time to time, since her first entrance upon the work, in 1866.

A letter was read from Mr. King, president of Electric railway, promising to beautify the grounds at the north entrance to Mount Vernon. Miss Townsend was directed to reply, expressing the gratification of Council at the proposed improvement.

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Resolved, that we, the vice regents in Council assembled, desire to express, by a vote of thanks to our beloved Regent, our appreciation of her unwavering devotion to the interests of Mount Vernon and her unfailing courtesy and kindness to the members of the Council, to whom she has become an inspiration and a model of all that is finest and best in womanhood.

L. J. JOHNSTON,  
Vice Regent for Alabama.

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The foregoing reports show the condition of Mount Vernon, its buildings and grounds, but cannot convey an impression of the solemn beauty of the spot. The winter was unusually severe, but no serious damage was done to the garden and the old box, at one time seriously threatened. The attendance at Council was large, the weather fine, the session harmonious. Friday, the eighth day, the Regent declared Council adjourned till the second Thursday in May, 1905.

JENNIE M. WARD,  
Secretary and Vice Regent for Kansas.

[Extract from Washington Post, Washington, D. C., May 13, 1904.]

## DEATH OF CAPT. L. L. BLAKE.

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VETERAN COMMANDER OF THE MACALESTER AND A "FORTY-NINER."

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Attack of Heart Trouble From Which He Died in a Few Minutes.—Burial in Vermont.

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Capt. Lowell L. Blake, known to every one that patronizes the river resorts, as commander of the steamer Charles Macalester, one of the best known and most popular steamboat men in the country, died yesterday at his home, 1517 P. street, in his seventy-fifth year. Captain Blake had been suffering with the grip and its after effects for several weeks, but it was not suspected that he was in any great danger, and on Thursday he was up and his family was in his room with him enjoying what seemed to be a more favorable turn in his illness. Yesterday, however, he was seized with heart trouble and passed away before assistance could be summoned, Mrs. Blake being present when he died. Capt. Blake's body will be taken tomorrow to Northfield, Vt., where he was born in 1830. and where the funeral and interment will take place. He is survived by Mrs. Blake and two children.

The flags at Mount Vernon are at half mast for Capt. Blake, whose steamer has taken hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to the birthplace of the first president, in the last two decades. The regents of Mount Vernon are now holding their annual session at the place, and when they heard of his death they immediately ordered this mark of respect to his memory. Resolutions of sympathy with his family were adopted, and a large bunch of flowers from the place was sent to Mrs. Blake.

## Complete List of All Officers of Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union.

Founder and First Regent 1853-1873,  
MISS ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA,  
Resigned 1873, Died 1874.

### VSCE REGENTS APPOINTED 1858.

1. Mrs. Anna Cora Ogden Ritchie, resigned 1866 . . . . . Virginia
  2. Mrs. Alice H. Dickinson, resigned 1859 . . . . . North Carolina
  3. Mrs. Philoclea Edgeworth Eve, died 1889 . . . . . Georgia
  4. Mrs. Octavia Walton Le Vert, died 1866 . . . . . Alabama
  5. Mrs. Catharine A. McWillie, died 1873 . . . . . Mississippi
  6. Mrs. Margaretta S. Morse, resigned 1873; died 1895 . . . Louisiana
  7. Mrs. Mary Rutledge Fogg, died—— . . . . . Tennessee
  8. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Walton, resigned 1860 . . . . . Missouri
  9. Miss Mary Morris Hamilton, died 1876 . . . . . New York
  10. Mrs. Louisa Ingersoll Grennough, resigned 1865 . . . Massachusetts
  11. Mrs. Abba Isabella Little, resigned 1863 . . . . . Maine
  12. Mrs. Catherine Willis Murat, died 1867 . . . . . Florida
  13. Mrs. Mary Boott Goodrich, resigned 1861; app. 1857 . . Connecticut
  14. Miss Phebe Ann Odgen, died 1867 . . . . . New Jersey
  15. Mrs. Alice Key Pendleton, resigned 1863; died 1885 . . . . Ohio
  16. Mrs. Abby Wheaton Chace, died 1892 . . . . . Rhode Island
  17. Mrs. Jane Maria Van Antwerp, died—— . . . . . Iowa
  18. Mrs. Margaret Ann Comegys, died 1888 . . . . . Delaware
  19. Mrs. Hannah Blake Farnsworth, died 1879 . . . . . Michigan
  20. Mrs. Sarah King Hale, resigned 1861 . . . . . New Hampshire
  21. Mrs. Martha Mitchell, died 1902 . . . . . Wisconsin
  22. Mrs. Rosa Vertner Johnson, died—— . . . . . Kentucky
- 1859.
23. Mrs. Elizabeth Willard Barry, died 1884 . . . . . Illinois
  24. Mrs. Sarah J. Sibley, died 1869 . . . . . Minnesota
  25. Mrs. Mary Pepperell Jarvis Cutts, resigned 1878 . . . . . Vermont
  26. Miss Lily Lytle Macalester, died 1891 . . . . . Pennsylvania
  27. Mrs. Magdalen G. Blanding, resigned 1883 . . . . . California
  28. Mrs. Harriet V. Fitch, died 1880 . . . . . Indiana
  29. Mrs. Sarah H. Johnson, died 1866 . . . . . Arkansas
  30. Mrs. Anne Lucas Hunt, died 1878; app. 1860 . . . . . Missouri
  31. Mrs. Letitia Harper Walker . . . . . North Carolina

1860.

32. Mrs. Mary Chestnut, died 1861 . . . . . South Carolina

1866.

33. Mrs. Margaret J. M. Sweat . . . . . Maine  
 34. Miss Emily L. Harper, died 1891 . . . . . Maryland  
 35. Mrs. Lucy H. Pickens, died August 1899 . . . . . South Carolina  
 36. Mrs. M. E. Hickman, resigned 1867 . . . . . Nevada  
 37. Mrs. M. A. Stearns, resigned 1872 . . . . . New Hampshire  
 38. Mrs. Emily R. M. Hewson, resigned 1866 . . . . . Ohio  
 39. Miss Ella Hutchins, resigned 1866 . . . . . Texas

1867.

40. Mrs. Janet M. C. Riggs, resigned 1868 . . . . . District of Columbia  
 41. Mrs. Maria Brooks, resigned 1896 . . . . . New York  
 42. Mrs. Matilda W. Emory, resigned 1873 . . . . . District of Columbia  
 43. Mrs. Nancy Wade Halstead, died 1891 . . . . . New Jersey

1868.

44. Mrs. Nannie C. Yulee, died 1884 . . . . . Florida

1870.

45. Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson . . . . . Connecticut  
 46. Mrs. Betsey C. Mason, died 1873 . . . . . Virginia  
 47. Mrs. A. P. Dillon, resigned 1874; died 1898 . . . . . Iowa  
 48. Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, died 1898 . . . . . West Virginia

1872

49. Mrs. William Balfour, resigned 1875 . . . . . Mississippi  
 50. Mrs. Mary T. Barnes . . . . . District of Columbia  
 51. Mrs. David Urquhart, resigned 1876 . . . . . Louisiana  
 52. Mrs. M. E. Maverick, resigned 1873 . . . . . Texas  
 53. Mrs. C. L. Scott, resigned 1877 . . . . . Arkansas

This was the last appointment of Miss Cunningham, First Regent.

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**MRS. LILY M. BERGHMAN.**

SECOND REGENT, 1874-1891.

Died 1891.

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**VICE REGENT APPOINTED 1874.**

54. Mrs. Emma Reed Ball . . . . . Virginia  
 55. Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, died 1883 . . . . . Tennessee

1875.

56. Mrs. Lily L. Broadwell, died 1890 . . . . . Ohio  
 57. Mrs. John P. Jones . . . . . Nevada

1876.

58. Mrs. Jennie Meeker Ward . . . . . Kansas

59. Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend . . . . . New York

1878.

60. Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, resigned 1880 . . . . . Vermont

1879.

61. Miss Alice Longfellow . . . . . Massachusetts

62. Mrs. Robert Campbell, died 1882 . . . . . Missouri

1880.

63. Mrs. Ida A. Richardson . . . . . Louisiana

1882.

64. Miss Ella S. Herbert, died 1884 . . . . . Alabama

1885.

65. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Adams Rathbone . . . . . Michigan

66. Mrs. Mary T. Leiter . . . . . Illinois

67. Mrs. Janet De Kay King, died 1896 . . . . . Vermont

68. Mrs. Eliza Woodward, died 1897 . . . . . Kentucky

1886.

69. Miss Harriet Clayton Cornegys . . . . . Delaware

70. Miss Fanny Gilcrist Baker, died 1901 . . . . . Florida

1889.

Mrs. Alice Hill . . . . . Colorado

. Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau . . . . . Minnesota

. Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst . . . . . California

1890.

. Mrs. A. R. Winder . . . . . New Hampshire

1891.

. Mrs. Georgia Page Wilder . . . . . Georgia

This was the last nomination of Mrs. Lily Macalester Loughton,  
second Regent (Madame Berghman).

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### MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND,

THIRD REGENT.

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#### VICE REGENTS APPOINTED 1893.

Mrs. George R. Goldsborough, resigned 1904 . . . . . Maryland

. Mrs. J. Dundas Lippincott, died 1894 . . . . . Pennsylvania

Mrs. Mary Lloyd Pendleton, resigned 1897 . . . . . Ohio

79. Mrs. Phillip Schuyler, resigned 1891 . . . . . New York  
 80. Mrs. Christine Blair Graham . . . . . Missouri  
 81. Mrs. Francis S. Conover . . . . . New Jersey  
 82. Mrs. Mary Polk Yeatman Webb . . . . . Tennessee

1894.

83. Miss Leila Herbert, died 1897 . . . . . Alabama

1895.

84. Mrs. Robert H. Clarkson, resigned 1900; died 1902 . . . Nebraska  
 85. Mrs. William Ames . . . . . Rhode Island  
 86. Miss Amy Townsend . . . . . New York

1896.

87. Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison . . . . . Pennsylvania  
 88. Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey . . . . . Texas

1898.

89. Mrs. James E. Campbell, resigned 1902 . . . . . Ohio  
 1900.

90. Mrs. R. D. Johnston . . . . . Alabama  
 91. Mrs. C. F. Manderson . . . . . Nebraska  
 92. Mrs. E. Van Rensselaer . . . . . West Virginia

1901.

93. Mrs. J. J. Pringle . . . . . South Carolina  
 94. Mrs. Wm. F. Barret . . . . . Kentucky  
 95. Mrs. Chas. Denby . . . . . Indiana









**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION**  
**OF THE UNION**

**1905**

**FRANK MUTH PRINTING CO.,**  
**OTTAWA, KANSAS.**



**OFFICERS**  
**OF THE**  
**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association**  
**of the Union.**

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**REGENT.**

**MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND,**  
Winter address, 131 East 71st Street, New York City.  
Summer, Box 647, Southampton, L. I., care Thomas Barber, Esq.

**VICE REGENTS.**

**MRS. LETTIA H. WALKER,** North Carolina.  
**MRS. MARGARET J. M. SWEAT,** Maine.  
**MRS. S. E. JOHNSON HUDSON,** Connecticut.  
**MRS. MARY T. BARNES,** Washington, D. C.  
**MRS. EMMA R. BALL,** Virginia.  
**MRS. JENNIE M. WARD,** Kansas.  
**MISS ALICE M. LONGFELLOW,** Massachusetts.  
**MRS. IDA A. RICHARDSON,** Louisiana.  
**MRS. ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,** Michigan.  
**MRS. MARY T. LEITER,** Illinois.  
**MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,** Delaware.  
**MRS. ALICE HILL,** Colorado.  
**MRS. REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,** Minnesota.  
**MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST,** California.  
**MRS. A. R. WINDER,** New Hampshire.  
**MRS. J. J. WILDER,** Georgia.  
**MRS. CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM,** Missouri.  
**MRS. FRANCIS S. CONOVER,** New Jersey.  
**MRS. THOMAS SHAPARD WEBB, SR.,** Tennessee.  
**MISS AMY TOWNSEND,** New York.  
**MRS. CHAS. C. HARRISON,** Pennsylvania.  
**MRS. THOMAS S. MAXEY,** Texas.  
**MRS. R. D. JOHNSTON,** Alabama.

MRS. CHAS. F. MANDERSON, Nebraska.  
MRS. EUGENE VAN RENSSELAER, West Virginia.  
MRS. JOHN JULIUS PRINGLE, South Carolina.  
MRS. WILLIAM BARRETT, Kentucky.  
MRS. CHAS. DENBY, Indiana.  
MRS. HENRY W. ROGERS, Maryland.

**SECRETARY.**

MRS. JENNIE MEEKER WARD, Ottawa, Kansas.

**TREASURER.**

MR. E. FRANCIS RIGGS, Washington, D. C.

**RESIDENT SUPERINTENDENT.**

MR. HARRISON H. DODGE, Mount Vernon-on-the-Potomac, Va.

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT.**

MR. JAMES YOUNG, Mount Vernon-on-the-Potomac, Va.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER, U.S. Supreme Court, Washington, D. C.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union**

HELD AT

MT. VERNON, FAIRFAX CO., VA.

MAY 11 TO 19, 1905

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## Ladies present:

Mrs. Walker, Vice Regent, North Carolina	Mrs. Conover, Vice Regent, New Jersey
Mrs. Hudson, Vice Regent, Connecticut	Mrs. Webb, Vice Regent, Tennessee
Mrs. Ball, Vice Regent, Virginia	Miss Townsend, Vice Regent, New York
Mrs. Ward, Vice Regent, Kansas	Mrs. Maxey, Vice Regent, Texas
Mrs. Richardson, Vice Regent, Louisiana	Mrs. Johnston, Vice Regent, Alabama
Mrs. Rathbone, Vice Regent, Michigan	Mrs. Manderson, Vice Regent, Nebraska
Miss Comegys, Vice Regent, Delaware	Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Vice Regent, W. Va.
Mrs. Hill, Vice Regent, Colorado	Mrs. Barret, Vice Regent, Kentucky
Mrs. Flandrau, Vice Regent, Minnesota	Mrs. Denby, Vice Regent, Indiana

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## REGENT'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Dear Ladies:

It is with more grief than I can find expression for, that I am prevented from attending Council this year. A recent severe illness has warned me that I must be prudent and abstain from over-fatigue, but I am certainly with you in spirit as the session for 1905 begins its deliberations.

By the ordering of Providence much sorrow has invaded the ranks of our Association since the last meeting.

How deeply we feel the loss of our active, energetic sister from Rhode Island! In every branch of work in which she was interested, her personality was always felt. Besides her duties in behalf of Mount Vernon, of which you need no reminder, she exerted much beneficial influence in furthering the restoration of Washington's place of worship---Pohick Church and to establish a fund to aid in defraying the Rector's salary. Nothing escaped her generous heart. This sorrow which has fallen upon us can be cheered only by the beautiful parting which was not Death, but happy entrance into Life eternal.



The heavy hand of affliction has invaded many of our homes. Two of our number have thus lost the devotion of honored, noble men. In addition the Vice Regent for Illinois has passed through the heavy trial of anxiety, pending the desperate illness of her eldest daughter.

All this sadness we have experienced of late has come with greater force, because for so many years our large circle of Council has, in a surprising degree, been spared severe affliction.

An honored member of our Advisory Committee, Mr. James Carter, of New York, has been taken from us. A man of wide popularity and fame in the legal world, his death was the signal for widespread testimonials. In consultation with members of our Association near at hand, it was deemed proper that our voice, too, should be raised in the general acclaim. I therefore caused to be published in the New York papers such fitting tribute of respect as we could hastily prepare. Thus we are on record with the other prominent organizations of the country in doing honor to Mr. Carter's memory.

Before leaving council, last year, you will remember that the settlement of the boat question was left for me to decide in consultation with the Superintendent. As it was clearly best that the contract should be direct as between our Association and the operating party, I worked with that in view. In my letter to the Mount Vernon and Marshall Hall Steamboat Company I stated how the Ladies regarded the long and faithful service of Captain Blake, and it did seem to us that some provision should be made for his widow. If that could be managed satisfactorily there would remain no difficulty in issuing the new contract direct to their company. It was finally so arranged and I had a very nice letter thanking the Ladies for granting the contract and assuring me they would give Mrs. Blake a suitable sum every month.

During the summer months, when travelers passed through Washington en route to the Grand Exposition at St. Louis, demands were frequent for permission to visit Mount Vernon on Sundays. In every instance,, save one, I refused to make excep-

tion to our firm rule regarding the Sabbath. Mr. Taft, Secretary of War, wrote an urgent request that a suspension of our rules be made in favor of the Philippine Delegation as Sunday would be the only possible day they could come to Mount Vernon, and as they had journeyed so far to pay respect to the founder of their adopted country I finally acquiesced, but that once only. Since then every request has been refused, and to forestall any misunderstanding on the subject I caused posters to be displayed in Washington when the city was crowded with strangers to witness the President's inauguration. These notices in large type read, "Mount Vernon Closed on Sundays."

As the years roll by the beauties of Mount Vernon seem to be enhanced. The wise suggestions of the several committees have been faithfully carried out.

I was sorry the falling off of our revenue last autumn prevented the reconstruction of the carriage road between the wharf and the tomb. This project, however, is only postponed until our funds are sufficient to warrant such expenditure.

I shall not attempt to enumerate the many achievements since your last official inspection. The details will be fully explained in the report of our Superintendent. He has, of course, kept me regularly informed of everything pertaining to the estate.

I have been much interested in his success in utilizing the water which flows from the tunnels. He will tell you how the pumping of 2,000 gallons daily to reservoirs on top of the hill has been accomplished. He will also lay before you a plan to greatly augment the water supply, not only for use about the gardens and lawns, but for outlying pastures and employes' cabins. All of this is quite important and I commend it to your favorable consideration.

In connection with the various branches of engineering work, Mr. Dodge has had the voluntary assistance of Mr. Archer, the engineer, who directed the tunnel work so successfully. He has shown himself to be so useful to us in many ways by acting in the capacity of expert director of work during the hours when

our Superintendent is engaged with visitors I think we should offer him, officially, some suitable recognition of his kindness in giving so much of his time, and interest, to the Mount Vernon work.

The year just closed has fallen short of our expectations in the financial line. During November, December, January and February there were comparatively few visitors.

The railroad service was so irregular and its cars in such shocking condition public complaint was made by citizens of Alexandria and Washington. Visitors who had suffered by reason of this wretched service lodged complaints with our Superintendent for allowing it, supposing that the Association was indirectly responsible for such treatment. This called for my action, and I wrote to the President of the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon railroad, calling his attention to these complaints, and asking politely to be relieved of the possibility of their recurrence.

He replied promptly and made many excuses for the past and stronger promises for the future.

Official investigation by the Railroad Commissioners of the State of Virginia brought the unsatisfactory affairs to a focus, and as a result a decided change for the better has been set afoot, so that not long hence it seems likely the railroad service to Mount Vernon will be first class in every particular.

Most unfortunately, however, it happened that at the very time we had counted expressly upon an immense concourse of visitors (the President's inauguration), the railroad was totally inadequate to the demands on it, and the river was so blocked by ice the boats could not run. Thus it is easy to understand how our revenues were affected.

The expenses, too, were large. To purchase the writing desk which Washington, in his will, bequeathed to Dr. Craik, his family physician, we had to draw upon the Endowment Fund interest for the \$1,600.00, because we had not sufficient balance in the General Account.

I am more than gratified to announce that our dear Vice Regent for Massachusetts, Miss Longfellow, has recently offered to raise this sum in her State, and meanwhile will send her personal check to replace the amount drawn temporarily from the reserve.

The valuable Stuart portrait of Washington, presented at last Council by Mrs. Richardson, was entrusted to experts in New York, who put it in perfect condition. It is now safely back and is hung in the Banquet Hall as you desired.

From Mr. Thomas Savage Clay, representing the "*Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia*," was received a framed picture of an Insignia of the Cincinnati, presented by General Washington to Major John Berrien, who was Secretary of the Society of the Cincinnati in Georgia. I have directed that it be hung in the Banquet Hall.

Mr. Clay would appreciate your note of acceptance.

I must tell you that the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association was honored by the President of the United States, at his recent inauguration, by a card, inviting the Regent to occupy a seat on the President's reviewing stand. Being unable to leave home then, because of illness in my family, I naturally turned to our worthy Dean, hoping she could find it possible to go to Washington. This she could not attempt, so I delegated Mrs. Ball, Vice Regent for Virginia, to represent the Association. She will, I hope, give you a full account of her pleasant experience on that auspicious occasion.

The personnel of Mount Vernon employes is slightly changed by adding a new assistant gardener, the resignation of Werner Anderson and the employment of another in his stead. The regular cook was attracted elsewhere by higher wages. With difficulty the Superintendent has managed to find a woman to fill the place.

The general health of the employes during the past year has been good, and their efficiency merits my unqualified commendation.

Our Treasurer, Mr. Riggs, will explain our financial matters more fully than I dare attempt.

The appended exhibit of accounts under my direction will show at a glance our present status.

Please bear in mind that the sum drawn from the Endowment interest account for purchasing the Craik desk should be returned.

In concluding my report I must emphasize my heartfelt regret that I am compelled to be absent. May God grant me such increase of health as will enable me to meet you all *next* year at dear old Mount Vernon.

J. V. R. Townsend,

April 30, 1905.

Regent.

Mrs. Ball, Vice Regent of Virginia, who was delegated by the Regent to represent the Association at the inaugural ceremonies by invitation of the President of the United States, as mentioned in the Regent's annual report, gave an interesting verbal account of the very courteous manner in which she was received and of the place of honor given to the Mount Vernon Association.

At the close of the reading of the Regent's report the following resolution was offered by Mrs. Hill, of Colorado :

The Vice Regents have received and listened to the reading of the Regent's report for the last year. It is with extreme sorrow they are met in Council without her gracious presence, and they trust that their deliberations and decisions may meet with her approval, and also that her wish, expressed for next Council, may be mercifully granted.

Adopted.

The reading of the state reports was next taken up.

#### ALABAMA STATE REPORT

The Vice Regent for Alabama reports \$38.10 contributed by the school children in 1905. Also a table once the property of the Fairfax family, and two foot-stools, given to the Alabama room by Mrs. Sarah Hernden, of Bleden Springs.

Lizzie J. Johnston,

Vice Regent.

**CALIFORNIA STATE REPORT**

My long continued absence from the country, on account of illness, has prevented me from doing any active work in the state, and it is a source of regret that I am not able to attend Council this year.

I enclose herewith one hundred dollars to be applied to the endowment fund.

May 10, 1905.

Phoebe A. Hearst,

Vice Regent.

**COLORADO STATE REPORT**

The Vice Regent regrets that ill health and absence from Colorado have prevented her from working in Mount Vernon's interests the past year. She trusts in future to present a better report.

Alice Hill,

Vice Regent.

**CONNECTICUT STATE REPORT**

Enforced absence from home and country has prevented the Vice Regent for Connecticut making any effort in behalf of Mount Vernon, except in dispersing reports and memorials among Europeanized Americans, who are in some danger of forgetting Washington and his home.

On 22d February at her hotel in Copri, Italy, she found her lunch table covered with flowers---a single American flag in possession. Inquiring the cause of this decoration she learned it was to celebrate the "Festa" of the great Washington, an unexpected and beautiful tribute from Italians to our Washington.

Respectfully presented, S. E. Johnson Hudson,

Vice Regent.

**INDIANA STATE REPORT**

The Vice Regent of Indiana reports the gift of \$150, to be applied to assisting in rebuilding the north boundary wall contiguous to the North Lodge Gate. Also the gift of \$25, to be used in any way of replenishment or repairs in the Superintendent's office building.

Martha Fitch Denby,

Vice Regent.

**KANSAS STATE REPORT**

Have distributed copies of Annual Report. Gave a talk on

Mount Vernon work, by invitation, to ladies in Lawrence, Kansas. Sent by request a paper on the history of the Association to a woman's club of Coffeyville.

Two ladies donated one dollar each, which will be used in Kansas room.

J. M. Ward,  
Vice Regent.

#### KENTUCKY STATE REPORT

I have to report that following instructions given by Council I bought the Washington desk from the Craik family, of Louisville, Ky., the amount paid being \$1,600. This desk is now in the Library of Mount Vernon.

I have also to report a gift of \$100 from the Kentucky Society of Colonial Dames, and \$41 from the Kentucky Society Sons of the American Revolution. These sums were given to aid in furnishing the Kentucky room at Mount Vernon. Also a mahogany couch, for this room, given by Mrs. I. Montgomery Wright, of Louisville, Ky.

By request I read a paper on Mount Vernon at the November meeting of the Society of Colonial Dames. Great interest was expressed in the work of this Association and in the memorial of Miss Cunningham, copies of which I gave to the Society; also in the report of 1903-04, and in the large photographs of Mount Vernon.

On the 22d of February I placed in each room of the public and Roman Catholic schools of Frankfort, Kentucky, copies of Andrew Read's tribute to Washington, which had been given me by the Vice Regent of Louisiana.

An increasing interest is manifest in all things pertaining to the home of Washington.

Margaretta M. Barret,  
Vice Regent.

#### LOUISIANA STATE REPORT

The Vice Regent for Louisiana, as instructed, presented to the public libraries and some schools a number of the interesting memorials to Miss Pamela Cunningham, the founder of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union. It gives her

great pleasure to again present a relic of interest from Mrs. Lewis Conrad of a Martha Washington wine glass, purchased by her for \$50, at Dr. Crim's art collection sale at Baltimore, April 27, 1903, for her children; and from her daughter, Marie Worthington Conrad, Nellie Curtis' wedding dress, inherited from her great grandmother, Mrs. Lawrence Lewis. These articles are to be placed, as always, in the Charles A. Conrad and L. Lewis Conrad relic case.

Ida A. Richardson,  
Vice Regent.

#### MICHIGAN STATE REPORT

The Vice Regent for Michigan reports a contribution by the Detroit Mount Vernon Society of \$200, to be used by her in Mount Vernon work. This she expects to apply to the purchase of Washington relics. The Vice Regent reports the purchase of a chair from Miss Bowman, of Philadelphia, that was one of a number presented to General Washington by General Lafayette. This is an exceptionally handsome and interesting chair, and the Vice Regent was very glad to secure it for Mount Vernon.

The Vice Regent has had several opportunities given her of addressing patriotic societies on the subject of Mount Vernon and the work of the Association, and was glad to have opportunities for correcting any erroneous impressions entertained regarding them. The ladies seemed deeply interested, and asked many questions for further information.

The reports were distributed as usual.

The Detroit Mount Vernon Society continues to do admirable work under the direction of its president, Mrs. Fyfe. It numbers now one hundred and forty-two members, who pay an annual fee of one dollar. The society gives, also, annually, on the 22d of February, a fitting entertainment in honor of the memory of General Washington. Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone,  
Vice Regent.



### MINNESOTA STATE REPORT

Having been absent from Minnesota the greater part of the last year, very little work has been accomplished.

I have to report a donation of twenty-five dollars, to be used as may be thought most desirable. Rebecca B. Flandrau,  
Vice Regent.

*Note.*—The twenty-five dollars mentioned above was contributed to the fund for the purchase of the dressing table of General Washington.—Secretary.

### MISSOURI STATE REPORT

The Vice Regent of Missouri, being providentially prevented from attending Council, forwards the following sums, donated in her state:

The St. Louis Chapter D. A. R. . . . .	\$25.00
The Sons of the Revolution . . . . .	54.65

These amounts to be given, by request of donors, to Pohick church.

Christine Blair Graham.

Vice Regent.

### NEBRASKA STATE REPORT

The Vice Regent for Nebraska reports that she distributed the annual reports; also copies of the life of our founder, Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, among those who feel the deepest interest in Mount Vernon in the state, and that immediately prior to the 22d of February she sent to the public schools of Omaha the tribute to Washington written by a distinguished Englishman over fifty years ago in commemoration of his distinguished service for humanity, and in recognition of his lofty personal character. The eloquent words of the writer, most attractively engraved, were gratefully received by the teachers, and in some instances were framed and hung upon the walls of the school, forming the text for patriotic sentiment by both preceptors and pupils. Respectfully submitted,

Rebekah S. Manderson,

Vice Regent.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE REPORT

The Vice Regent for New Hampshire takes pleasure in

adding as her personal contribution to "The Sarah King Hale " fund the sum of fifty dollars. Enclosed is a check on New York, payable to E. Francis Riggs, Esquire, Treasurer.

She deeply regrets her inability to be at Council.

Abby R. Winder,

May 11, 1905.

Vice Regent.

#### NEW JERSEY STATE REPORT

The Vice Regent from New Jersey has not much to report this year. She has received \$10 from the Boudinot Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and \$5 from other friends. Many friends in New Jersey are interested in Mount Vernon, and would, I am sure, gladly respond to any call made upon them for special gifts, but for the last two years there has seemed no necessity for this, so I have not made any appeal to them.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen F. Conover,

Vice Regent.

*Note.*---\$50 of the sum remaining in hand was applied to the purchase of the Washington shaving stand.---Secretary.

#### NEW YORK STATE REPORT

It seems that the interest and love of Mount Vernon increases each year. It was very gratifying to have the Archbishop of Canterbury tell me how pleased he was to plant a tree. I asked our faithful Superintendent to arrange it---a little elm, a seedling from the famous Cambridge one, was planted by the Primate near the tomb.

A friend of Mount Vernon has given four volumes of the "Sentimental Magazine" from the library of George Washington, with his signature; also a copy of the Philadelphia Directory for 1796, which was presented to and owned by George Washington, as per his signature on the title page.

The Bishop of New York, Henry C. Potter, has given to Mount Vernon his address, delivered in St. Paul's Chapel, New York, on the one hundredth anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington.

I am sorry to say all my efforts to improve the condition of trains and service have not had any effect. I think it is most incumbent upon us all to insist upon something being done, as many people will not come here during the winter months.

The box trees I obtained in Washington have died.

Respectfully submitted,      Amy Townsend,  
Vice Regent.

#### NORTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT

Mount Vernon literature has been well distributed in the state, and repeated inquiries about the Association testify to the interest felt in our work here.

L. H. Walker,  
Vice Regent.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT

The Vice Regent for South Carolina reports the purchase of the old cut glass decanter, which was given by Washington to Nancy Sheetz, filled with old wine, and given by her to Sarah R. Bowman when she was over ninety years old. The decanter has been placed in the cabinet in the family dining room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth W. Allston Pringle.

#### TEXAS STATE REPORT

The amount collected during the present year is larger than usual. On the 22d of February the school children of Texas were asked to contribute five cents each to the fund for building the wall at the north entrance to Mount Vernon. Comparatively few responded, but like bread cast upon the waters it may return after many days, and they may yet send their mite to aid in the patriotic cause.

The reports have been distributed and many requests have been received for copies of the memorial to Miss Cunningham.

The Colonial Dames in Texas continue the interest which they have manifested in the past.

Mrs. John Van Rensselaer has kindly given some attractive old pictures to be hung in the Committee room.

At the last Council twenty-five dollars was given to purchase

shrubs and trees to be planted at the North Lodge Gate. As it was not needed for that purpose the money will be transferred to the relic fund.

The following contributions have been received:

The Colonial Dames in Texas . . . . .	\$ 25.00
The Sons of the American Revolution in Texas . . . . .	25.00
Mrs. C. P. Huntington . . . . .	500.00
Mrs. H. E. Huntington . . . . .	250.00
Mrs. Geo. Freeman . . . . .	1.00
Mr. Otto Wahrund . . . . .	5.00
Mr. G. Bedell Moore . . . . .	10.00
Blanco School . . . . .	2.40
Lewisville Academy . . . . .	2.40
Corpus Christi Schools . . . . .	10.00
Huntsville Schools . . . . .	4.21
New Waverly Schools . . . . .	.40
Sherman Schools . . . . .	23.90
Cleburne Schools . . . . .	9.52
Kerrville Schools . . . . .	6.51
Rock Island Schools . . . . .	1.30
Conroe Schools . . . . .	3.25
Lockhart Schools . . . . .	7.00
Del Rio Schools . . . . .	3.60
Kemp Schools . . . . .	1.50
Rosebud Schools . . . . .	1.40
Mart Schools . . . . .	3.70
Miss Andrews' School, Galveston . . . . .	.50
Miss Mumber's School, Austin . . . . .	2.00
Mr. B. F. Hill . . . . .	1.00
	<u>\$900.59</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Frances C. Maxey,  
Vice Regent

At the conclusion of the state reports, Council listened to the reading of the

#### REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

*To the Regent and Vice Regents of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association:*

Ladies:---Again it is my great privilege to appear before you and render herewith a full account of my stewardship for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1905. The affairs of the estate have prospered fairly well, notwithstanding the handicap of an

unusually tedious winter, combined with unsatisfactory transportation facilities.

The total number of visitors was 87,095, a falling short of our expectations. No doubt the attractions of the St. Louis Exposition deflected travel from our direction, but a very decided influence to our disadvantage resulted from the increase of transportation rates between Washington and Mount Vernon. This action on the part of the electric railway and the boat company occurred in the spring of 1904, as brought to your attention in my last annual report. While both companies have profitted by this ratial increase of 50 per cent, the Mount Vernon treasury has suffered as a consequence by the reduction of visitors. The very unsatisfactory service of the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Railway unquestionably deterred many who wished to visit here. During the President's inauguration Washington city was crowded with strangers, thousands of whom tried in vain to reach Mount Vernon, the railway facilities being totally inadequate and the boat tied up by ice blockade in the Potomac.

#### BOAT CONTRACT

When the Council of 1904 adjourned no positive conclusion had been reached respecting a new contract. Two applications were under consideration, viz., the Mount Vernon and Marshall Hall Steamboat Company, Limited, and the widow of Captain Blake. The sympathies of this Association were strongly in favor of the latter, because of the long and faithful service rendered by her late husband. On May 22, 1904, the original contract (in name of Captain L. L. Blake) expired, but, with the approval of the Regent, the privileges were temporarily extended until June 1, 1904. Arrangements satisfactory to all parties concerned having been finally effected a new contract was issued June 1, 1904, for the term of one year, to the Mount Vernon and Marshall Hall Steamboat Company, Limited. For the preparation of this contract our lawyer, Mr. Darlington, declined to accept a fee, declaring that the honor of serving your patriotic Association was sufficient compensation.

The steamboat "Charles Macalester" continued its daily trips uninterruptedly until December 15, when heavy ice endangered navigation. The boat service was then suspended and not resumed until March 9, during which interval, under the special terms of the new contract, free transportation of Mount Vernon employes and freight was arranged for with the Washington, Alexander and Mount Vernon Railway Co.

Last October an excursion party in Washington applied to the Mount Vernon and Marshall Hall Steamboat Company for a separate boat on which to visit Mount Vernon. The official who received the application being unaware of the stipulation in the contract requiring "previous approval" by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, arranged to charter the steamer "River Queen" for this party. Because of its long use for negro excursions and to guard against the possible employment of such a boat in the Mount Vernon business, a prohibitive clause was inserted in the last contract.

On calling attention to this fact our boat company substituted another steamer for the occasion.

The owners of the "River Queen" felt aggrieved, and notified me they would seek redress in the courts, but nothing has ever come of it.

#### 1904 INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPERINTENDENT

That the various instructions issued during last Council have had my attention, I will mention them in the order they are listed on pages 64 and 65 of the Minutes.

By direction of the Mansion Committee the cretonne upholstery in the Wisconsin room was removed and white dimity substituted. The rug was sold by the Vice Regent for Rhode Island for \$40, and the money credited to the general fund. It more than covers the cost of re-upholstering.

Chairs in the District of Columbia room were provided with white dimity slip covers.

The old painting over the mantel in West Parlor was carefully cleaned and restored. The quaint old clock which stood

on the pier table there was repaired, supplied with a glass cover and removed to the Banquet Hall.

The frames of the two Lambdin copies of Washington portraits were *not* gilded, because when I reported to the Chairman of the Mansion Committee that it would cost \$25 each, she thought it best to postpone the project.

As to covering the old sofa in the hall, I found the haircloth of the back and ends good enough to stand. I therefore purchased *black* haircloth for the seat, instead of going to the expense of an entire covering of *green* haircloth.

The bedroom floors in the quarters were given a dressing of hard oil as directed.

Portraits of George Eskridge and his wife were hung in the Green Room, General Rust, the donor, being present when this was done.

As suggested by the Committee on Grounds, Shrubs and Trees, the board walk and steps leading to the wharf were moved to a less conspicuous position, and the short cut path obliterated. On that hillside, after applying new soil, grass was sown and young trees set out.

Notice of the entrance fee was posted outside the North Lodge Gate.

The iron railing surrounding the Prince of Wales oak was removed.

Three large and three smaller box bushes were planted near the buildings.

At various advantageous points about the grounds young trees were set out, the list including elms, linden, maple, wild cherry, sweet gum, horse chestnut, walnut, pecan and box elder.

Shrubs were placed at the North Lodge Gate, as requested by the Vice Regent of Texas.

Cobblestone gutters were constructed along the approach to the Bowling Green gate and the roadway given a higher crown of gravel.

The stones for these gutters were obtained with much diffi-

culty from the quarries near the Soldiers' Home, north of Washington, were hauled to the steamer Macalester, put in sacks and shipped to Mount Vernon, all of which added greatly to the expense.

The rough and unsightly embankment along the river front has been graded to a more attractive slope and a beginning made in covering same with wild honeysuckle.

Several openings were made through the sea wall and terra cotta conduits laid therefrom to the surface ditches provided for storm drainage.

The proposed reconstruction of carriage road from wharf to tomb was not carried into effect, owing to lack of funds.

Eradicating poison ivy continues, but so wide spread and deeply rooted is this pest the prospect of its extinction is discouraging.

English ivy has been planted along the walls of greenhouse, flower garden, rose house, ice house and kitchen.

Besides the foregoing specific instructions certain items in my recommendations to Council were approved and appropriated for as follows:

Restoration of ceiling in the main hall of Mansion. This was attended to. I personally examined the old timbers after removal of the plaster. To all appearances they are sound. The effect of the daily tramping over the floor above is a springing motion, just enough to crack the ceiling of the hall without actually endangering it. When eventually it becomes necessary to relay the floor extra braces can be inserted to strengthen the supporting joists.

#### MANSION CELLAR

Removal of whitewash, as far as possible, from the walls and timbers of Mansion cellar, and the application of best known stone preservative.

To harden this soft sandstone so that it will resist the effect of condensation is a problem not yet solved. Experimentally I have lately applied an English preparation called "Szerelmey."



It bears very strong testimonial indorsement, but I cannot venture an opinion as yet upon its suitability in our case. More time is required for the test.

To reduce the overheating of the cellar during winter and the consequent shrinking of the floors above, all the hot water mains have been covered with a non-conducting material known as Air Cell Asbestos. The beneficial effect of this is already marked.

Five hundred feet of the deer park stockade fronting the river needed reconstruction, and my recommendation to substitute wire for wood was approved. This invisible wire fencing affords an open view of the entire hillside, making the park much more attractive.

With similar wire fencing, but of reduced height, upwards of thirty acres have been made available for sheep pasture.

The appropriation for a circular silo gave us an opportunity of adding an improvement of great utility for the cattle, sheep and deer.

The silo is located within the hay barracks, adjoining the cow barn. It is 24 feet in height by 12 feet in diameter, and its capacity is 50 tons. Four acres of drilled corn fodder will fill it, and this succulent food keeps the stock in excellent condition during the winter.

I was authorized to purchase a low-geared, broad-tired wagon for general farm use. This has proven to be the handiest implement we have, and is particularly suitable for the mule team.

#### COACH

At last Council it was decided that the carriage used here for the passenger traffic was unnecessarily heavy and too severe a tax on the team assigned to it. I was authorized to dispose of it, if possible, and replace it with something of lighter draft. Diligent efforts disclosed no bidder for the old vehicle, and to build a new one would involve a cost of \$550. I therefore suggested to the Regent that what we had be made more presentable by a coat of paint, and that we buy horses strong enough to draw it easily. This she approved, and a pair of handsome and powerful Per-

cherons were secured. They are admirably adapted to the requirements.

#### GILBERT STUART PORTRAIT

Shortly after last Council I carried to New York the Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington, and arranged for its repairs with the firm of M. Knoedler & Company, Fifth avenue. The old canvas was reinforced by a strong linen backing, after which the portrait was carefully cleaned and varnished. During its three months' stay in New York it was insured, and as soon as completed I brought it to Mount Vernon and put it in its original frame, with glass to protect it.

#### THE WASHINGTON-CRAIK DESK

This interesting relic, which had been given (in Washington's will) to Dr. Craik, his family physician, arrived at Mount Vernon August 8, 1904. It was found to have been damaged in transit, but was repaired at the expense of the express company. The desk occupies its former position in the library, and has attracted much favorable comment from visitors.

#### WASHINGTON BIBLE

In the office safe reposed for several years the family bible, containing records, including the birth of George Washington. This book was intrusted to my care by the late Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, of West Virginia. At her decease it became the property of her son, Mr. William de Hertburn Washington, who last summer relieved me of its custody.

#### TUNNELS

The tunnels are in good order, and streams therefrom continue in undiminished volume, showing that the drainage of the subterranean sands is effectual. The flow of water reached its normal rate of fifteen thousand gallons per day the middle of last summer, and has not varied appreciably since. To utilize this water we have piped it to an old cistern in the deer park, whence it is forced by hydraulic rams to the tanks and cisterns on top of the hill.

This ceaseless stream, albeit a very small one, is of immense

advantage to us in preserving a high-pressure service for watering greenhouses, gardens, lawns, for our hot water plant, for improvement to sanitary drainage, for running water through the dairy and through stables.

An extension of the water main was carried through the full length of the vegetable garden, with hose plugs conveniently located. It continues from there on to the cow barn. A branch pipe supplies the kitchen, too, with this spring water.

In calculations for and installment of these hydraulic improvements I have had the voluntary assistance of Mr. Archer, the engineer, who constructed the tunnels. He has helped me also in planning an increased water supply for the distant pasture lots and employes' cabins. This plan will be more fully explained in my list of recommendations.

#### HEATING APPARATUS

For the protection against freezing of the pipes and pump of the fire engine I extended the hot water mains from the cellar of butler's house to an improvised radiator in the engine room. A similar arrangement was made to prevent the freezing of the lavatory system.

Where the hot water pipes were laid under the ground brick conduits, filled with asbestos cement, were provided.

After the improvement of our water service I connected one of the high level tanks direct with the hot water main and removed, because no longer needed, the compressed air tank. The removal of this tank affords a large space in the upper part of the boiler room which we now use for additional forcing beds, and other purposes.

#### PALM HOUSE

When the palm house roof was raised to its present height there resulted enough room at the rear to warrant a second story floor and a compartment where the florist can lock up his appliances, seeds, bulbs, etc.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Briefly I will list repairs of miscellaneous character.

For better accommodation of the family at the West Lodge Gate the kitchen was enlarged.

At the North Lodge Gate the floor and door strips of passage were renewed.

Floors of office, Wisconsin room, lavatory and quarters were stained.

Eave gutters on the wharf shelter had to be patched and painted.

Portions of the block pavement at the wharf were relaid, as also the brick pavement near the tomb, where affected by frost.

The wharf steps---wrecked by ice---were rebuilt.

In the Mansion slight repairs were made to windows, stairs, ballustrades, chimney, besides retouching the paint work.

Portico chairs were varnished, and the iron-framed benches for use about the grounds were painted.

Whitewash was applied liberally to fences, walls, stables, poultry house, greenhouse, stages.

The outside of cow barn was color washed.

Upper passages of the Mansion were calcimined, the wood-work cleaned and painted.

The wall paper was patched.

Calcimine was laid also in West Virginia room, the vestibule of the tomb, the kitchen and bedrooms over it, the butler's house, and rooms in Kansas quarters.

Attention in the painting line was given the greenhouse tanks, interior of greenhouse and water closets, metal roofs, gates, carts, ladders and farm implements.

The usual storm walks were laid for the winter at the Mansion approaches.

Hotbed sash were strengthened and reglazed.

Heavy corded fringe was added to the hammer cloth of General Washington's coach.

An electric call bell was arranged between the office and kitchen.

#### ICE

During February we secured a supply of good ice from a distant stream.

Unfortunately the capacity of the old ice house is not sufficient for our needs. Its enlargement is very essential, and, if decided upon, can be accomplished without disturbing the present exterior appearance.

#### GROUND

With great regret I refer to the deplorable condition of the turf near the Mansion and tomb. It is worn badly in spots by the tramping of visitors.

For patching these unsightly places I have not as yet been able to find in the neighborhood enough good sod. At times, as you know, the throngs of people are so great they press for room about the central points of attraction, hence these disfigurements.

The summer killing of blue grass and the encroachment of Bermuda grass, which suits this climate and soil better, have much to do with the poor appearance of our lawns in early spring.

The privet hedges and shrubbery suffered much from severe frost. All the young magnolias and several crepe myrtles were winter-killed.

The dense growth of pine sprouts bordering the road to West Lodge Gate I have had cleared away to give the young oaks a better chance to develop.

Throughout our woods are thousands of seedling oaks which we can make no use of, and which grow so thickly in places as to cumber the grounds. These should be valuable to the public for restoring forests. Advertisements have failed to bring us orders. I shall be glad to explain a plan which promises better results.

Most of the young trees set out last autumn are doing well. Among them is a seedling from the famous Washington elm at Cambridge I procured for His Grace, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to plant when making his pilgrimage here September 26, 1904.

On November 17th a *Japanese maple* was set out near the tomb by His Royal Highness Prince Foushimi, of Japan, who,

with his suite, came---as guests of the nation---on the President's yacht, accompanied by high officials of our government.

By permission of last Council a beech tree was planted not far from the tomb by representatives of the "Chi Omega" fraternity, graduates of female colleges in America.

The seedling from the Washington oak at Peterhof Palace, St. Petersburg, planted here by Honorable E. A. Hitchcock, Secretary of Interior, did not survive. We are promised another to take its place.

Other distinguished parties visited Mount Vernon, contributing---if not in tree planting---by offerings of handsome flowers to the memory of Washington. I mention the following:

The Philippine Commission.

The Interparliamentary Union.

Special Ambassador from Emperor William, of Prussia.

Children of the American Revolution.

Knights Templars of America.

On Decoration Day the usual wreath from the White House was placed on the tomb, and to commemorate Washington's death floral tributes were laid on his sarcophagus by representatives of Masonic orders, of which he was a member. .

#### GARDENS

I feel sure you will see improvements in both gardens. With the additional help, which last Council voted him, Mr. Whelan has accomplished excellent results. At present the early spring vegetables are well advanced. Lettuce, radishes and asparagus are ready for your table. Unfortunately the late frosts checked the strawberry crop throughout this section.

Better distribution of water facilities is a boon to our garden.

#### FARM

Our farm work has been pressed actively. Last summer's crops of hay, wheat and corn were secured in good condition; 138 bushels of wheat were sold. While our supply of forage was ample the limited acreage prevented making but fifty barrels of corn to subsist the stock. I therefore cleared of stumps be-

tween nine and ten acres of new ground adjoining the back field and plowed it, together with nine acres on the Gould lot hill, for this year's crop. Rock lime, at the rate of forty bushels per acre, has been applied.

Rye was grown on one of the small lots and cut this spring as required for the milch cows. This year I plan to go extensively into the culture of "New Era" peas for a forage crop, and especially to improve the soil.

My study of the subject leads me to believe that we will make no mistake in growing this valuable crop. The advice of experts in the U. S. Department of Agriculture decidedly favors its use, and they have furnished, gratis, a sufficient quantity of the new process---bacteria cult---for fertilizing the seed I will plant. These peas furnish a complete ration of forage and grain, so that if our attempt is successful the subsistence of our horses, cows, sheep and deer will be provided for.

Putting in the circular silo has been an immense advantage. To fill the silo a machine is employed which shreds the fodder and packs it in place, where, after settlement a fermentation ensues, and the mass remains in succulent condition ready for feeding. The ensilage, when fed, is entirely consumed, there being no refuse as in the case of dry fodder, and the stock is evidently benefitted by this wholesome ration.

By way of land improvement we have applied, in addition to 1,000 bushels of lime, all the barn yard compost, as well as large quantities of wood ashes. This latter from our boiler room.

For most of the farm work and general hauling our fine pair of Kentucky mules have done heroic service.

Since the purchase of the new horses for the coach the old team has been used for farm work and general purposes. There are besides one old mare for cart and lawn service, and a yearling colt. One aged horse was sold.

The dairy stock is composed of six cows, two heifers and a bull. Some changes are advisable in this branch.

The sheep that we have should be disposed of this spring and a new lot purchased.

Among the deer there has been much mortality, due principally to the hard winter, though in a great measure attributable to in-breeding and long confinement to same range of ground. In this connection I think it well to suggest enclosing a portion of our remote woodland (which can be done very cheaply), an additional range for the deer, keeping then a small number in the home park for show.

The handsome chickens sent to us from Nebraska have done well, and are much admired by visitors.

Two of the peafowls died during the winter.

#### COAL

Last year's supply of coal was arranged for immediately after Council. Several reliable bidders were represented. We paid for furnace coal \$5.55, and for stove coal \$5.80 per ton. This was white ash anthracite from Lehigh Valley, the best hard coal. One hundred tons were not sufficient for the long winter, but we managed to tide over the cold spell by burning waste wood from the estate.

#### DONATIONS

Our long time friend, Miss McFadden, who for years has supplied us with new flags, died last August, aged 94 years. Her niece has written to say that the annual gift of flags will continue as before.

To the Vice Regent for Indiana we are indebted for a set of china for the Superintendent's table.

From an enthusiastic Englishman (who does not care to have his name mentioned) a cash donation of \$20.

The same day two ladies from New Jersey contributed to the general fund fifty cents.

Mrs. Harriot Dickins Wight, of the District of Columbia, has loaned an ancient and interesting music book, which belonged to and bears the autograph of Martha Park Custis, daughter of Mrs. Washington.

#### EMPLOYEES

Our list of employes was increased, an order of Council add-



ing a skilled assistant to Mr. Whelan's department. Oswald Frommelt was appointed to that position June 10, 1904.

April 1, 1905, Werner Anderson resigned and O. J. Thomas was given his place.

Two changes of cooks have occurred. The city demand for servants and the high scale of wages there makes it difficult for us to fill that position at Mount Vernon. The allowance for our cook (\$15 per month) has been unchanged for fifteen years, yet in that time the number of employes to be cooked for has more than doubled.

It gives me pleasure to report faithful attention to duty on the part of all the employes.

I cannot conclude my report without an expression of sincere regret that the Regent has been ill and is unable to attend this Council.

I sometimes fear that such lengthy correspondence as I have to impose upon her during the interim of Councils may have overburdened her. With every year I have wondered more at the vigor and keenness of her judgment. Never at a loss for the solutions of vexed questions, always prompt and just in her decisions, her abilities and kindly traits of character are remarkable.

For her consideration and for yours, dear ladies, I am deeply indebted.

I have the honor to subscribe myself

Your most obedient and humble servant,

Harrison H. Dodge,

Res. Sec. and Supt.

#### REPORT OF GARDENER

Mount Vernon, Va., May 11, 1905.

Ladies :---In submitting my report for fiscal year I must first express my delight that the long and severe winter did the garden little damage. The boxwood hedge, which is the admiration of all visitors, never looked finer.

A few roses were killed, but these can be easily replaced. I

am also glad to report an increase in receipts of \$58.90 over last year, notwithstanding there were several thousand fewer visitors to Mount Vernon.

Receipts . . . . .	\$748 40
Expenditures for postage, etc . . . . .	11 30
	<hr/>
Cash to Superintendent . . . . .	\$737 10

Instructions of last Council have been carefully carried out. The beds edged with violet plants, ivies, hollyhocks, sweet peas, mignonette, sweet Williams, etc., planted in appropriate places. Pæonias, irises, etc., were divided and replanted last fall. The multiplicity of plants and flowers will accentuate the beauty of our garden, already pronounced by competent authority (both foreign and native) to excel anything of its character in America today.

To Mrs. Hudson, Vice Regent for Connecticut, I am indebted for a generous supply of lily of the valley roots, sent after last Council. To Mrs. Barnes, Vice Regent for District of Columbia, for seed sent a few days ago.

Having directed the destiny of the garden for so many years I watch its progress in beauty with a peculiar exultation, and trust that under the guidance of my able committee, each year will add to its attractiveness, so that at last when I lay down the burden and pass to different scenes "Well done good and faithful servant" shall be said of me by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, than which I crave no greater eulogy.

Very faithfully yours,

Franklin A. Whelan.

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#### REPORT OF SECRETARY FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 1, 1905

Wrote and had printed 50 copies Minutes of 81 pages; 700 copies Reports of 61 pages; also, had printed 50 copies By-Laws, 7 pages.

#### CASH ACCOUNT

Cost of printing Minutes, Reports and By-laws . . . . .	\$90 00
Check from Regent . . . . .	90 00

## OFFICE EXPENSES

Typewriting . . . . .	12 00
Assistant . . . . .	6 00
Postage and expressage . . . . .	18 00
Stamps and stationery . . . . .	6 00
Total . . . . .	<u>\$42 00</u>
Regent's check . . . . .	\$25 00
Balance . . . . .	<u>17 00</u>
	\$42 00
	\$42 00
	42 00

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

## MANSION COMMITTEE

The report of last year showed that the Mansion was in excellent condition, and there have been but few repairs necessary during the past year.

The ceiling of the main hall has been replastered as directed. There have been some incidental repairs, such as painting, cal-cimining and papering.

The heating mains in the cellar have been covered with non-conducting material to prevent the excess of radiation, which had a tendency to shrink unduly the flooring above.

The Superintendent has reported to the committee a process of hardening the foundation stone, which he will explain to Council, and which experiment our committee recommends.

Minor repairs have been made during the year, such as painting roofs and buildings, and some miscellaneous repairs of the same nature are considered advisable this year.

The Mansion and buildings generally are in excellent condition.

Rebecca B. Flandrau,

Chairman.

Alice Hill.

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The committee reports that all volumes are carefully protected and in good condition. The books were taken down under the personal supervision of Mr. Young and carefully freed from dust.

The committee asks that an appropriation be made by Coun-

cil from the contingent fund for the purchase of books that belonged to Washington, as opportunity may occur.

The committee reports the valuable gift of the following books, through the Vice Regent from New York :

Five volumes of the Sentimental Magazine, from the library of George Washington, with his signature.

Stephens' Philadelphia Directory, 1796, presented to the President, with his signature, George Washington.

An address delivered by the Bishop of New York, Henry C. Potter, delivered in St. Paul's Chapel, New York, on the hundredth anniversary of Washington's inaugural.

Helen F. Conover,  
Acting Chairman.

Mary Y. Webb,  
Ida A. Richardson,  
Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone,  
Lizzie J. Johnston.

#### RELIC COMMITTEE

The Relic Case in second floor hall has been removed, as it was not in a safe condition, and the one from West Virginia room put in its place, which shows the contents to greater advantage. A larger case has been put in the West Virginia room, and the relic articles suitable to a bed room have been placed in it.

The by-law governing the duties of the Relic Committee faithfully obeyed.

Ida A. Richardson,  
Chairman.

#### FURNITURE COMMITTEE

The committee reports that it has found the furniture in good condition, and has no suggestions to make at present.

Some small matters, such as washing curtains and revarnishing furniture, will be left to Mr. Dodge. Helen F. Conover.

#### RECORD COMMITTEE

The lists of gifts and loans of relics, with the letters describing them, have been filed in a book by your committee since the

last meeting of Council. This volume will be placed in the library with the other Mount Vernon records.

The Superintendent has placed in our hands a parcel of dilapidated letters found in a squirrel or rat's nest between the laths and walls of General Washington's room. How ancient was this stolen refuge is proved by the dates of the letters that are legible.

A letter from Bushrod Washington, April 4, 1806, to his wife, from Trenton.

A letter from . . . . ., May 7, 1805, from Greenwood.

Scrap of a letter, April 6, 1783, to Friend Sanford---Jeremiah Sanford---from a Quaker.

Letter to Mrs. Washington from J. B. Mickoby, congratulating Mrs. Washington on Bushrod Washington's recovery from what we should call grippe.

Other bits of letters came among these interesting offerings from the collections found in the walls, made by the squirrels and rats of ancient days, who seem to have possessed some literary taste, but a somewhat destructive one.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Clayton Comegys,  
Chairman.

Susan E. Johnson Hudson,  
Jennie M. Ward.

#### TOMB COMMITTEE

A careful inspection of both tombs shows them to be in good condition. Instructions will be given for planting more ivy on the walls of the tomb.

The usual decorations of the tomb on the specified days were observed.

L. H. Walker,  
Chairman.

E. B. A. Rathbone,  
R. B. Flandrau,  
Frances C. Maxey,  
Emma R. Ball.

## GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE

The Gardener has sent monthly reports to the chairman, so that she has been kept well informed concerning each month's conditions, the succession of flowers, and the monthly sales.

The parterres were especially brilliant last summer, when they were ablaze with hibiscus and portulaccas. Although the number of visitors was not so great in the year 1904-'05 as the previous year, yet the receipts from the garden and greenhouse were greater.

The directions given to the Gardener at last Council were faithfully carried out and everything looks in good condition.

The committee makes the following suggestions :

Miss Townsend recommends that more lillies of the valley be planted.

Mrs. Maxey requests that a yellow Lady Banks rose be planted by the school house, in the flower garden.

Miss Comegys directs that English ivy be planted as borders to some of the beds, as the crepe myrtle, for example.

Mrs. Van Rennselaer requests that members of the committee obtain plants or shrubs from well known places of Washington's time, to be planted in the garden at Mount Vernon. Rows of jonquils, daffodils, narcissus and snow drops are recommended. A number of plants of the McCartney and old mounting roses, which are excellent for covering walls, will be ordered.

E. B. A. Rathbone,  
Chairman.

Amy C. Townsend,  
Frances C. Maxey,  
Harriet Clayton Comegys,  
Sarah P. Van Rennselaer.

## GROUNDS, SHRUBS AND TREES COMMITTEE

It is with great pleasure your committee reports the successful execution of its recommendations of last Council. The road from the North Lodge to Bowling Green gate is completed, is now free from mud during the wet season, and is an ornament to the estate.

The new walk to the wharf proves its usefulness by the fact that visitors make no disfiguring paths through the grass, but use this winding, sylvan walk.

We would call especial attention to its termination at the wharf, where our Superintendent has tastefully placed steps of large stones. It is the intention to repeat this construction later throughout the path.

It is recommended that English ivy be planted at foot of the sun dial, to give it a more ancient appearance. Also that English ivy be planted at the wall of kitchen garden. This ivy does well in this soil, rapidly covering the old walls with a mantle of green.

It is advised that the space behind the rose house extending to Bowling Green gate be graded and privet hedge be planted around it.

Also that a wild tulip tree be planted as near as advisable to the old locust tree near the south porch, which seems to be gradually dying.

Your committee has, with the assistance of the Superintendent, had stakes placed, marked with name of tree or shrub to be planted at each stake. There are maples, elms, chestnut, oaks, box, euonymous, Norway spruce, Judas tree, dog wood, magnolia grandiflora, magnolia stellata, horse chestnut, from the variety selected.

There is also a forestry question for the consideration of Council. In our woods there are thousands of white oak saplings. Our Superintendent, thinking these might be made profitable to the Association, counselled with Mr. Pinchot, President of the Forestry Commission as to disposing of these, and has received encouragement and advice as to bringing these small trees into notice. The Forestry Commission will send these Mount Vernon oaks to all points, thus introducing them to the public free of all expense to the Association. This would seem an experiment worth the trial.

The expensive work for which your committee begs an appro-

priation is, first, the construction of a new road from wharf to tomb, a most important construction, as over this road are conveyed the visitors from the boat. The road is a mass of mud and very heavy in the spring. Plans for this road will be presented to Council. Cost, \$1,500.

Second, is the extension of our water plant, for sanitary uses, etc., to reach to Mrs. Vickers' house, and the two houses in the valley. The water now used by these houses is from a well of bad, unhealthy water. Water is also required on the farm. The plan for this extension of the water works is the ingenious device of our engineer, Mr. Archer. Cost, \$1,000.

Susan E. Johnson Hudson,

Acting Chairman.

Martha Fitch Denby,

Amy C. Townsend,

Alice Hill.

#### KITCHEN GARDEN COMMITTEE

The wall fruit needs attention.

That a border be thoroughly prepared and planted with a variety of herbs, such as sweet lavenders, sage, French and English thyme, sweet marjoram, borage, wormwood, rue, sweet basil, winter and summer savory, and other herbs, suitable to be planted in such a border. Respectfully submitted,

Amy Townsend,

Acting Chairman.

Harriet Clayton Comegys,

Sarah P. Van Rensselaer.

#### FARM COMMITTEE

After inspection of the farm we find a promising condition of farm affairs. Nine or ten acres of new land have been cleared and plowed, together with nine acres on the Gould lot hill for this year's crop. It has been decided to plant "New Era" peas, a most valuable crop for feeding stock and enriching land. The usual grain crops have been planted successfully. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has furnished, gratis, a sufficient



amount of the new process---bacteria cult---for fertilizing the seed. The circular silo has proved itself of immense advantage.

In fertilizers, one thousand bushels of lime, also the wood ashes from the boiler room and compost from the barn yard have been successfully used.

Some changes are advised in the dairy stock and sheep. The cows are inferior in quality. The purchase of a new disc harrow and cultivator and weeder is recommended. Also other implements at the Superintendent's need. A particular advantage to the farming interest of Mount Vernon will be the projected water supply to distant pastures, which heretofore have been unavailable for use of stock.

It is recommended that the new water main be tapped for the benefit of stock and fields where it is needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Yeatman Webb,

Acting Chairman.

Elizabeth W. Allston Pringle,

Margaretta M. Barret.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Your committee would respectfully report a faithful examination of the Regent's financial statement, and of bills and vouchers for the past year, and we find them clear and correct.

Your committee has also compared the reports of the Treasurer and of the Superintendent, including the accounts of the Purser and of the Gardener, and reports them entirely correct and satisfactory.

Total receipts for year ending April 30, 1905 . . . . .	\$31,632 24
Total expenditures for year ending April 30, 1905 . . . . .	25,650 57
Net balance in bank, May, 1905 . . . . .	<u>\$5,981 67</u>

#### Approximate Estimates and Appropriations for 1905 and 1906

Pay roll . . . . .	\$14,739 84
Secretary to Regent . . . . .	300 00
Secretary to Council . . . . .	100 00
Office expenses of Secretary . . . . .	50 00
Telephone rental . . . . .	30 00
Road to wharf . . . . .	1,500 00

Extension of water mains . . . . .	1,000 00
Coal supply . . . . .	700 00
Guide books . . . . .	750 00
Material for hardening stone . . . . .	200 00
Shaving table of General Washington . . . . .	2,500 00
To Vice Regent for Kentucky to purchase chair . . . . .	500 00
For Miss Bower's relics . . . . .	150 00
Expenses of Council . . . . .	550 00
Tree planting . . . . .	50 00
Postal cards . . . . .	50 00
Pohick Church pew rental . . . . .	90 00
Gratuity to servants . . . . .	50 00
To Vice Regent for Alabama, for candle shades . . . . .	30 00
Purchase of edition of printed speech of colored guard at tomb . .	16 00
	<hr/>
	\$23,355 84

A check for \$1,600 has been received from the Vice Regent for Massachusetts replacing the loan made last year from the interest of the Endowment Fund. This check is deposited with Mr. Riggs, having been received after the year's accounts were closed.

Emma R. Ball,

Chairman.

Letitia H. Walker,

Ida A. Richardson,

Jennie H. Ward,

Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone.

## LIST OF COMMITTEES.

### FINANCE.

Mrs. Ball, chairman; Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Rathbone.

### MANSION.

Mrs. Flandrau, chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Rogers.

### FURNITURE.

Miss Comegys, chairman; Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Graham, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Conover.

### LIBRARY.

Miss Longfellow, chairman; Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Johnston.

### GROUNDS AND SHRUBS.

Mrs. Leiter, chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Denby.

### GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE.

Mrs. Barnes, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, <sup>acting chairman</sup> Mrs. Leiter, Mrs. Wilder, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Maxey, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

### KITCHEN GARDEN.

Mrs. Harrison, chairman; Miss Townsend, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Pringle.

### FARM.

Mrs. Hearst, chairman; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Barret.

### TOMB.

Mrs. Walker, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Rogers.

### RELICS.

Mrs. Richardson, chairman; Mrs. Winder, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Wilder.

### RECORD.

Miss Comegys, chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Ward.

### BY-LAWS.

Mrs. Richardson, chairman; Mrs. Winder, Mrs. Manderson.

### INDEX.

Mrs. Flandrau, chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Winder.

### PARLIAMENTARY RULES.

Mrs. Sweat, chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Manderson.

### PRESS.

Mrs. Wilder, chairman; Mrs. Winder, Miss Longfellow, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Harrison.

*Guide Book*

*Miss Potter*

## MISCELLANEOUS

Rev. Mr. Mead of old historic Pohick Church, visited Mount Vernon during Council, and several of the Vice Regents attended service there on Sunday. A handsome donation was made to the church by the Sons of the Revolution and a chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution, of St. Louis.

The nomination made last year by the Regent, Mrs. J. V. R. Townsend, of Mrs. Henry W. Rogers as Vice Regent for Maryland, received the unanimous approval of the Council. In response to an invitation, Mrs. Rogers took her seat on Monday as a member of the Board of Vice Regents of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Governor Montague named the following members of the Board of Visitors to Mount Vernon, to serve one year: Messrs. Archer Anderson, of Richmond; Thomas Smith, of Warrenton; R. B. Davis, of Petersburg; Gardner L. Boothe, of Alexandria; A. Moore, Jr., of Berryville.

Owing to illness, the governor of Virginia was not able to make his annual visit to Mount Vernon on the day appointed for his reception. Mr. Thomas Smith, of Warrenton, represented the Board of Visitors appointed by the governor, and made a very graceful address to the ladies, congratulating them upon their management of the estate. Col. Roberts asked permission to bring to Mount Vernon the Artillery Band from Fort Washington, which was gladly granted by the Vice Regents.

During the session a telegram was received from a member of the French delegation at the International Railroad Congress, which read as follows:

"Deeply touched by the memories centered at Mount Vernon, we ask permission to place a wreath on the tomb of Wash-

ington. Our wives desire to lay one also on the tomb of Martha Washington. Would it be possible for a small number of us to take to Mount Vernon this tribute to the illustrious dead on Friday morning, May 12? Jusserand, French Ambassador."

The delegation was met at the tomb on that day by the women, and two large bouquets of roses and palms were laid on the tombs of General and Mrs. Washington. The floral tributes were composed of La France and American Beauty roses, emblems of the two peoples united by one common bond—"Love of liberty and reverence for the illustrious dead." A short address, embodying these sentiments, was delivered by Monsieur Fosse, secretary to Ambassador Jusserand. After visiting the mansion the party left by boat.

Among the relics procured during the year is the writing desk used by Washington and given by him in his will to Dr. Craik, his family physician. This was found in Kentucky and was purchased through Mrs. Barret, the Vice Regent of that state, and paid for by Massachusetts, through Miss Longfellow, Vice Regent of that state. The desk is now in the library which Washington added to the Mansion, and is situated on the spot where it stood when the General used it. The chair belonging with the desk was purchased by this Council and placed with the desk in the library.

The wedding dress of Nellie Custis was brought by Mrs. Richardson, of Louisiana, and is loaned by the Conrad family. It is a delicate, gauzy creation of lace, and excited much interest. The gown was exhibited in the banquet room, where the wedding took place. A beautiful wineglass owned by Mrs. Washington, was also loaned by the Conrad family, who are descendants of Nellie Custis.

A very interesting relic, restored to Mount Vernon by this Council, is a mahogany dressing table of curious design, and in

almost perfect preservation. It was made in France and presented to Gen. Washington by the first French minister accredited to the United States. It was willed by Gen. Washington to Dr. David Stuart, of Fairfax, Va., whose wife was the widow of John Parke Custis, Mrs. Washington's only son. Dr. Stuart left it by will to his son, and it has been handed down to Mrs. Cox, who personally delivered it at Mount Vernon a few days after adjournment of Council.

Mr. Lawrence Washington, of Alexandria, Va., presented a letter written by the first Regent to his father, John A. Washington, containing the first offer for the purchase of Mount Vernon. Council gratefully accepted the gift, and ordered the precious memento to be framed between two glasses and hung under the portrait of Miss Cunningham at Mount Vernon.

Mr. Thomas Savage Clay, representing the Society of the Cincinnati in the state of Georgia, sent a framed picture of the insignia of the order, presented by General Washington to Mr. John Berrian, who was secretary in Georgia of the society.

The members of Council are exceedingly grateful to Mrs. Walker of North Carolina, who, in the absence of the Regent, presided over their deliberations with dignity, tact and skill, and our sincere acknowledgements are due to her for her unselfish devotion and untiring energy.

This finishes the record of another year at Mount Vernon, with no "changes," except such as preservation requires, with the gardens, the grounds, and the precious tomb cared for at every point---with no disaster from the elements---for all of which the persons in charge are truly thankful.

Council adjourned Friday, the 19th of May, to meet on the second Thursday of May, 1906.

Jennie M. Ward,  
Secretary and Vice Regent for Kansas.

**COMPLETE LIST OF ALL OFFICERS OF MOUNT VERNON LADIES  
ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION.**

**Founder and First Regent 1853-1873,  
MISS ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA,  
Resigned 1873. Died 1874.**

**VICE REGENTS APPOINTED 1858.**

1. Mrs. Anna Cora Ogden Ritchie, resigned 1866 . . . . . Virginia
2. Mrs. Alice H. Dickinson, resigned 1859 . . . . . North Carolina
3. Mrs. Philoclea Edgeworth Eve, died 1889 . . . . . Georgia
4. Mrs. Octavia Walton Le Vert, died 1866 . . . . . Alabama
5. Mrs. Catherine A. McWillie, died 1873 . . . . . Mississippi
6. Mrs. Margaretta S. Morse, resigned 1873; died 1895 . . . . . Louisiana
7. Mrs. Mary Rutledge Fogg, died----- . . . . . Tennessee
8. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Walton, resigned 1860 . . . . . Missouri
9. Miss Mary Morris Hamilton, died 1876 . . . . . New York
10. Mrs. Louisa Ingersoll Grennough, resigned 1865 . . . . . Massachusetts
11. Mrs. Abba Isabella Little, resigned 1863 . . . . . Maine
12. Mrs. Catherine Willis Murat, died 1867 . . . . . Florida
13. Mrs. Mary Boott Goodrich, resigned 1861; appointed 1857 . . . . . Connecticut
14. Miss Phebe Ann Ogden, died 1867 . . . . . New Jersey
15. Mrs. Alice Key Pendleton, resigned 1863; died 1885 . . . . . Ohio
16. Mrs. Abby Wheaton Chace, died 1892 . . . . . Rhode Island
17. Mrs. Jane Maria Van Antwerp, died----- . . . . . Iowa
18. Mrs. Margaret Ann Comegys, died 1888 . . . . . Delaware
19. Mrs. Hannah Blake Farnsworth, died 1879 . . . . . Michigan
20. Mrs. Sarah King Hale, resigned 1861 . . . . . New Hampshire
21. Mrs. Martha Mitchell, died 1902 . . . . . Wisconsin
22. Mrs. Rosa Vertner Johnson, died----- . . . . . Kentucky

**1859**

23. Mrs. Elizabeth Willard Barry, died 1884 . . . . . Illinois
24. Mrs. Sarah J. Sibley, died 1869 . . . . . Minnesota
25. Mrs. Mary Pepperell Jarvis Cutts, resigned 1878 . . . . . Vermont
26. Miss Lily Lytle Macalester, died 1891 . . . . . Pennsylvania
27. Mrs. Magdalen G. Blanding, resigned 1883 . . . . . California
28. Mrs. Harriet V. Fitch, died 1880 . . . . . Indiana
29. Mrs. Sarah H. Johnson, died 1866 . . . . . Arkansas
30. Mrs. Anne Lucas Hunt, died 1878; app. 1860 . . . . . Missouri
31. Mrs. Letitia Harper Walker . . . . . North Carolina

**1860**

32. Mrs. Mary Chestnut, died 1861 . . . . . South Carolina

**1866**

33. Mrs. Margaret J. M. Sweat . . . . . Maine
34. Miss Emily L. Harper, died 1891 . . . . . Maryland
35. Mrs. Lucy H. Pickens, died August 1899 . . . . . South Carolina

36. Mrs. M. E. Hickman, resigned 1867 . . . . . Nevada  
 37. Mrs. M. A. Stearns, resigned 1872 . . . . . New Hampshire  
 38. Mrs. Emily R. M. Hewson, resigned 1866 . . . . . Ohio  
 39. Miss Ella Hutchins, resigned 1866 . . . . . Texas

## 1867

40. Mrs. Janet M. C. Riggs, resigned 1868 . . . . . District of Columbia  
 41. Mrs. Maria Brooks, resigned 1896 . . . . . New York  
 42. Mrs. Matilda W. Emory, resigned 1873 . . . . . District of Columbia  
 43. Mrs. Nancy Wade Halstead, died 1891 . . . . . New Jersey

## 1868

44. Mrs. Nannie C. Yulee, died 1884 . . . . . Florida

## 1870

45. Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson . . . . . Connecticut  
 46. Mrs. Betsey C. Mason, died 1873 . . . . . Virginia  
 47. Mrs. A. P. Dillon, resigned 1874 ; died 1898 . . . . . Iowa  
 48. Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, died 1898 . . . . . West Virginia

## 1872

49. Mrs. William Balfour, resigned 1875 . . . . . Mississippi  
 50. Mrs. Mary T. Barnes . . . . . District of Columbia  
 51. Mrs. David Urquhart, resigned 1876 . . . . . Louisiana  
 52. Miss Mary Maverick, resigned 1873 . . . . . Texas  
 53. Mrs. C. L. Scott, resigned 1877 . . . . . Arkansas

This was the last appointment of Miss Cunningham, First Regent.

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MRS. LILY M. BERGHMAN.

Second Regent, 1874-1891.

Died 1891.

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VICE REGENTS APPOINTED 1874

54. Mrs. Emma Reed Ball . . . . . Virginia  
 55. Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, died 1883 . . . . . Tennessee

## 1875

56. Mrs. Lily L. Broadwell, died 1890 . . . . . Ohio  
 57. Mrs. John P. Jones . . . . . Nevada

## 1876

58. Mrs. Jennie Meeker Ward . . . . . Kansas  
 59. Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend . . . . . New York

## 1878

60. Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, resigned 1880 . . . . . Vermont

## 1879

61. Miss Alice Longfellow . . . . . Massachusetts  
 62. Mrs. Robert Campbell, died 1882 . . . . . Missouri

## 1880

63. Mrs. Ida A. Richardson . . . . . Louisiana



46

1882

64. Miss Ella S. Herbert, died 1884 . . . . . Alabama

1885

65. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Adams Rathbone . . . . . Michigan  
66. Mrs. Mary T. Leiter . . . . . Illinois  
67. Mrs. Janet De Kay King, died 1896 . . . . . Vermont  
68. Mrs. Eliza Woodward, died 1897 . . . . . Kentucky

1888

69. Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys . . . . . Delaware  
70. Mrs. Fannie Gilcrist Baker, died 1901 . . . . . Florida

1889

71. Mrs. Alice Hill . . . . . Colorado  
72. Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau . . . . . Minnesota  
73. Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst . . . . . California

1890

74. Mrs. A. R. Winder . . . . . New Hampshire

1891

75. Mrs. Georgia Page Wilder . . . . . Georgia  
This was the last nomination of Mrs. Lily Macalester Laughton, second Regent  
(Madame Berghman).

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MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND

Third Regent

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Vice Regents Appointed 1893

76. Mrs. George R. Goldsborough, resigned 1904 . . . . . Maryland  
77. Mrs. J. Dundas Lippincott, died 1894 . . . . . Pennsylvania  
78. Mrs. Mary Lloyd Pendleton, resigned 1897 . . . . . Ohio  
79. Mrs. Phillip Schuyler, resigned 1891 . . . . . New York  
80. Mrs. Christine Blair Graham . . . . . Missouri  
81. Mrs. Francis S. Conover . . . . . New Jersey  
82. Mrs. Mary Polk Yeatman Webb . . . . . Tennessee

1894

83. Miss Leila Herbert, died 1897 . . . . . Alabama

1895

84. Mrs. Robert H. Clarkson, resigned 1900; died 1902 . . . . . Nebraska  
85. Mrs. William Ames, died 1904 . . . . . Rhode Island  
86. Miss Amy Townsend . . . . . New York

1896

87. Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison . . . . . Pennsylvania  
88. Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey . . . . . Texas

1898

89. Mrs. James E. Campbell, resigned 1902 . . . . . Ohio

1900

- 90. Mrs. R. D. Johnston . . . . . Alabama
- 91. Mrs. C. F. Manderson . . . . . Nebraska
- 92. Mrs. E. Van Rensselaer . . . . . West Virginia

1901

- 93. Mrs. J. J. Pringle . . . . . South Carolina
- 94. Mrs. Wm. F. Barret . . . . . Kentucky
- 95. Mrs. Chas. Denby . . . . . Indiana

1905

- 96. Mrs. Fannie J. D. Rogers . . . . . Maryland







**1906**

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION**  
**OF THE UNION**

**ANNUAL COUNCIL**  
**HELD AT**  
**MOUNT VERNON-ON-THE-POTOMAC,**  
**FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA.,**  
**MAY 10 TO 18, 1906**

**THE REPUBLIC PRESS**  
**OTTAWA, KANSAS**



**OFFICERS**  
**OF THE**  
**MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION**  
**OF THE UNION.**

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**REGENT.**

**MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND,**  
Winter address, 131 East 71st Street, New York City.  
Summer, Box 647, Southampton, L. I., care Thomas Barber, Esq.

**VICE REGENTS.**

**MRS. LETITIA H. WALKER,** North Carolina.  
**MRS. MARGARET J. M. SWEAT,** Maine.  
**MRS. S. E. JOHNSON HUDSON,** Connecticut.  
**MRS. MARY T. BARNES,** Washington, D. C.  
**MRS. EMMA R. BALL,** Virginia.  
**MRS. JENNIE M. WARD,** Kansas.  
**MISS ALICE M. LONGFELLOW,** Massachusetts.  
**MRS. IDA A. RICHARDSON,** Louisiana.  
**MRS. ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,** Michigan.  
**MRS. MARY T. LEITER,** Illinois.  
**MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,** Delaware  
**MRS. ALICE HILL,** Colorado.  
**MRS. REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,** Minnesota.  
**MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST,** California.  
**MRS. J. J. WILDER,** Georgia.  
**MRS. CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM,** Missouri.  
**MRS. FRANCIS S. CONOVER,** New Jersey.  
**MRS. THOMAS SHAPARD WEBB, SR.,** Tennessee.  
**MISS AMY TOWNSEND,** New York.  
**MRS. CHAS. C. HARRISON,** Pennsylvania.  
**MRS. THOMAS S. MAXEY,** Texas.  
**MRS. R. D. JOHNSTON,** Alabama.  
**MRS. CHAS. F. MANDERSON,** Nebraska.



MRS. EUGENE VAN RENSSELAER, West Virginia.

MRS. JOHN JULIUS PRINGLE, South Carolina.

MRS. WILLIAM BARRET, Kentucky.

MRS. CHAS. DENBY, Indiana.

MRS. HENRY W. ROGERS, Maryland.

SECRETARY.

MRS. JENNIE MEEKER WARD, Ottawa, Kansas.

TREASURER.

MR. E. FRANCIS RIGGS, Washington, D. C.

RESIDENT SUPERINTENDENT.

MR. HARRISON H. DODGE, Mount Vernon-on-the-Potomac, Va.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT.

MR. JAMES YOUNG, Mount Vernon-on-the-Potomac, Va.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER, U. S. Supreme Court, Washington,  
D. C.

MR. LEWIS CASS LEDYARD, 2 East 87th Street, New York  
City, N. Y.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

MRS. CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM, 5145 Lindell Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

1906

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.**

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The Board of Regents of the Association met in annual Council on Thursday, May 10th.

Eighteen ladies in all being in attendance.

**LADIES PRESENT.**

Mrs. Justine V. R. Townsend, New York, Regent.  
Mrs. Letitia H. Walker, Vice Regent for North Carolina.  
Mrs. Margaret J. M. Sweat, Vice Regent for Maine.  
Mrs. Susan E. J. Hudson, Vice Regent for Connecticut.  
Mrs. Emma R. Ball, Vice Regent for Virginia.  
Mrs. Jennie M. Ward, Vice Regent for Kansas.  
Mrs. Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone, Vice Regent for Michigan.  
Miss Harriet C. Comegys, Vice Regent for Delaware.  
Mrs. Alice Hill, Vice Regent for Colorado.  
Mrs. Georgia P. Wilder, Vice Regent for Georgia.  
Mrs. Christine B. Graham, Vice Regent for Missouri.  
Mrs. Mary Y. Webb, Vice Regent for Tennessee.  
Mrs. Ellen W. Harrison, Vice Regent for Pennsylvania.  
Mrs. Frances Maxey, Vice Regent for Texas.  
Mrs. Lizzie J. Johnston, Vice Regent for Alabama.  
Mrs. Susan P. Van Rensselaer, Vice Regent for West Virginia.  
Mrs. Elizabeth A. Pringle, Vice Regent for South Carolina.  
Mrs. Fannie J. D. Rogers, Vice Regent for Maryland.

The flag hung at half mast, for the news of the sudden death of the Vice Regent for New Hampshire had just reached Mount Vernon.

Sorrow for the loss to the Association and to the distant home was mingled with the gratitude felt for the restoration to health of the Regent, and the preservation from disaster from the elements, of the precious Mansion and grounds.

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**REGENT'S ANNUAL REPORT.**

Dear Ladies:

It is with peculiar deep feelings of gratitude and love that I meet with you this year. We meet an unbroken Council, one or two may be prevented by illness from coming. A short time since I received a touching letter from Mrs. Denby, to whom I had writ-

ten, on hearing of her illness. I gave her a clear description of the beautiful work accomplished by the aid of her generous contribution. I advised her to be careful of her health, this year, so that she would be able to see her good works at the Council of 1907.

Our dear Acting Regent of last year had heavy work in the continuous committees she was obliged to call together, during many days after the adjournment of Council. We cannot express too much gratitude for her untiring zeal and successful accomplishment. The whole number of the ladies on the committee were very much to be praised for their kind "obedience to order," to bring an end to the requirements of the other party.

Almost every lady wrote me, and each one expatiated highly upon our North Carolina Regent, and I was delighted to hear that all appreciated my choice.

Before entering upon an account of our work for the past year we must pause to reflect upon the personal loss we have sustained in the death of our dear friend and Ex-Vice Regent, our beloved Mrs. Goldsborough. She was one of the few last representatives of the eighteenth century in dignity of manner and speech. A woman of the purest Christian character and generous to all. We deplore her loss, but in full assurance of her life in Heaven we cannot mourn, realizing, as we must, her happiness in joining the dear ones who preceded her.

We have also to inform you of the death of Colonel Upton Herbert, the first Superintendent of Mount Vernon. Some of our Vice Regents may remember him as such.

This fiscal year, dear Ladies, you will be glad to learn was a most successful one. Over one hundred thousand visitors have been at this honored Home of our greatest American.

Notwithstanding the large expenditures (including the purchase of relics) our receipts justified my returning to the interest account of the Endowment Fund the sums borrowed from it in 1904 and 1905, aggregating \$4,600.

And still I shall be able to show you a good working balance on the General Account.

Our Treasurer, Mr. Riggs, wrote to me upon the question of profitably investing what had accumulated by way of interest on securities of the Endowment Fund. This we agreed upon and a \$5,000.00 bond was thereby added to the list of investments

representing now a par value total of \$73,100.00.

This year has been noted, also, for the many distinguished visitors.

In September, 1905, Count Witte and Baron Rosen, the Russian Peace Plenipotentiaries.

In November, 1905, Prince Louis of Battenberg and suite, Admiral Edward Seymour and Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, both noted officers of the British Navy.

January, 1906, Imperial Chinese Commissioners and suite.

April, 1906, Earl Grey, Governor General of Canada, and suite.

All of these parties, except the two admirals, were brought as guests on United States Naval vessels.

The Russian and Canadian parties planted trees.

Operation of the boat business was in accordance with terms of the contract accepted by the Acting Regent and special committee shortly after the adjournment of Council of 1905. A slight misunderstanding regarding "one way tickets" was subsequently corrected. There is one very objectionable feature, I find, in the new arrangement. Having to collect the entrance fees at our wharf delays and congests the crowds and causes unfavorable comment. The Boat Company declined selling tickets including entrance to Mount Vernon, but we must try to effect a resumption of this method which has been so long in vogue.

Through special efforts of the Vice Regent for Texas, a good beginning has been made to establish along our Northern boundary a reproduction of the substantial brick walls built at Mount Vernon by General Washington.

Two hundred and ten feet have been constructed, and make a marked improvement in that part of the grounds.

Many times we have endeavored to make a good driveway between the wharf and the Tomb, but never until this year has success been obtained.

Our Superintendent will explain how it has been accomplished and that damp, muddy road has been converted into an attractive feature.

The water extension has been a work giving great comfort on all sides to the distant houses and fields. The water now rises by its own power to great height. Mr. Archer, the engineer, has done this important work for us.

The completion of the tunnels must have the consideration of the Council. Mr. Archer drew designs for me to examine—these were explained most clearly; but, the pros and cons I did not feel capable of deciding and thought it best to bring the subject before the Council. Mr. Archer, the engineer, will submit the plan to us later on.

So many improvements have been made, that it seems to us all, Mount Vernon becomes more and more “a thing of beauty;” yet in no manner losing the beautiful simplicity, which has always been the charm of this beloved Home.

I am sure you will all be pleased with the improved appearance of our River Front. The broken banks have been sloped and sodded with honeysuckles, and the grading nearest the wharf is in grass. Young trees and flowering shrubs help the effect.

You must also have noticed how many young trees have been set out, and how attractive in time the hidden path to the wharf can be made!

The experiment our Superintendent made with the turf west of the Mansion should be repeated elsewhere, near the buildings where the lawns are most affected by crowds that often gather together.

The gift of young trees from our woods to members of the Forestry Congress, held in Washington, 1905, seems to have been much appreciated, our Superintendent mentions, judging from the great number of letters received acknowledging appreciation.

The heavy travel to Mount Vernon during the year makes our Superintendent apprehensive of the Mansion. He has wisely strengthened walls and floors.

At times when crowds were unusually great he was obliged to restrict their entrance—and he desires to have a hearing before Council in order to explain these precautions, and hear what would be advisable in the future.

The appended statement shows as concisely as I can, the conditions of the actual financial accounts. The reports of our Treasurer and Superintendent will enter more into detail than I need attempt.

It is with profound thanksgiving that I have been enabled to join you again, my dear colleagues, at this Council board, and to indulge the hope that we all may be spared for many such reunions in future.

Your friend and Regent,

JUSTINE V. R. TOWNSEND.

## STATE REPORTS.

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### ALABAMA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Alabama reports the gift of a chair by Rachael Jackson Dyas. This chair come from the "Hermitage" and was given by General Jackson to a niece of his wife's, who married his aid, General Coffee. The donor is a descendant of Mrs. Coffee's, for whom she is named.

The wrought iron fixtures in fire-place in the Alabama room were presented by Professor W. H. Councill. They were made by the pupils of the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical School, (Colored) Normal, Alabama.

Respectfully submitted,

LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON,

Vice Regent.

### CONNECTICUT STATE REPORT.

Again enforced absence from state and country has prevented any effort for Mount Vernon beyond the distribution of Reports in Europe and at home.

The last Council requested me to inquire as to the publication of "Lossing's Home of Washington." Correspondence with various publishers was without result, until finally a letter to the Publishers' Weekly has brought the courteous answer that J. C. Yorston & Co., 80 Johnston Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, issued the latest edition of this valuable work in 1884, and that it is now out of print.

S. E. JOHNSON HUDSON,

Vice Regent.

### COLORADO STATE REPORT.

Very little has been done for Mount Vernon the past year, except the usual distribution of Reports and reminders from time to time, in the daily papers, of the work in progress there.

Many copies were also given of the "Historical Sketch of Miss Cunningham" the noble "Southern Matron" who first conceived the thought of the preservation of Mount Vernon.

ALICE HILL, Vice Regent.

### DELAWARE STATE REPORT.

Last summer I received the following letter from the granddaughter of the late Bishop Lee, of Delaware, in regard to a gift she desired to make to the Mount Vernon garden:

Germantown, Penn., June 4, 1903.

My dear Miss Comegys:

I have found a nursery which has the true York and Lancaster rose. Miss Haines, proprietor of the nursery, brought it over from England herself, and it was vouched for as such in the English nursery. She tells me that it is distinctly striped, but can hardly be called red and white, but deep pink and pale pink. I want to have the privilege of sending one to Mount Vernon in the autumn at the proper time to transplant \* \* \* \* \*.

Very sincerely yours,

ELIZABETH LEIGHTON LEE.

I wrote Miss Lee how gladly we would accept the rose which for years we had tried in vain to secure. Our gardener tells me the two bushes sent are strong, healthy plants.

Reports of last Council were duly distributed in my state.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,

Vice Regent.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REPORT.

The Vice Regent for the District of Columbia has but little to report, as ill health has made it impossible for her to exert herself in the interest of Mount Vernon. She sends a profile of Washington engraved from the original which was presented to Mrs. Morris by General Washington, accompanied by a note of which the text beneath the profile is a true and exact fac simile.

MARY T. BARNES, Vice Regent.

#### GEORGIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Georgia has made no effort to collect money for Mount Vernon the past year, yielding to more urgent claims in her state. An increasing interest in Mount Vernon is evinced, and requests to give information by readings and distribution of pamphlets complied with. The Vice Regent is gratified that her suggestion to the Superintendent to sow perennial rye seed on the closely mown Bermuda grass sod in the autumn, well rolled and fertilized, as done in Savannah, thus securing a fresh green turf in winter or summer, has been followed with good results at Mount Vernon.

Two heirlooms presented by Mrs. Batie of Mobile, a fish knife and cheese scoop, of Sheffield plate, with ivory handles, belonging to her grandfather, Rev. Walter D. Addison, a friend of

Washington, indicating the pattern of the day, sent through the Vice Regent for Georgia, have been accepted by the Relic Committee.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,

Vice Regent.

### ILLINOIS STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Illinois regrets her absence from Council of 1906, as she is detained in Chicago by her legal duties as executrix of her late husband's estate.

In the year 1882, the Vice Regent purchased, through Miss Elizabeth Nicholas of Richmond, Va., the mirror used by General Washington during his life. This interesting relic came from the Washington family, and it gives the Vice Regent much pleasure to place it where it was originally, at Mount Vernon.

The condition of the wood surrounding the mirror renders it dangerous to hang. Should the Ladies concur, it may be placed beyond harm in the relic case.

The Vice Regent for Illinois submits to Council the correspondence she has had with Mr. H. H. Walker, regarding the two acres of land adjacent to the Gould lot, and asks that the same may be incorporated into her State Report, as it places on record the termination at this date of this important negotiation. An interview with Mr. H. H. Walker has resulted in his giving his promise to do nothing with outside parties in disposing of the two acres before he places it at the disposal of the Ladies' Mt. Vernon Association.

MARY T. LEITER,

Vice Regent.

### KANSAS STATE REPORT.

Have distributed reports liberally in my own state and other states, to historical societies and libraries. They were acknowledged and accepted gratefully.

Interest in the schools is kept up. The decorations and exercises on Washington's birthday in my own town were very fine and talks were given on the home at Mt. Vernon.

Many visitors went from there to Mt. Vernon this year and all speak in high praise of the lovely spot and its faithful and courteous keepers. The annual gift of one dollar from Iola, Kans., is the only money received and it will be used in Kansas room.

Six oak seedlings were received from Mr. Dodge, the Super-



intendent, and planted in the parks and University grounds at  
Ottawa, Kansas.

Respectfully,

JENNIE M. WARD, Vice Regent.

#### KENTUCKY STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Kentucky regrets that absence from America will prevent her attendance on Council. She wishes to report a gift of \$20.00 from the Sons of the American Revolution of Louisville, Kentucky, to be used for the Kentucky room at Mount Vernon.

MARGARET M. BARRET,

Vice Regent.

#### LOUISIANA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent regrets that she cannot attend Council this session, the family of her nephew being victims of the San Francisco earthquake horror and requiring her attention and care at home.

IDA A. RICHARDSON,

Vice Regent.

#### MARYLAND STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Maryland reports the acquisition of a most interesting Washington relic for the loan collection—a brass hunting horn, presented to General Washington by Lafayette and loaned to this Association by Judge James Alfred Pearce, of Chestertown, Maryland, who inherited it from his Grandfather, Dr. Dick, one of the physicians who attended Washington in his last illness. Judge Pearce has left this horn, in his will, to the Association. The Maryland Society, Sons of the American Revolution, contributed thirteen dollars, to be used in the purchasing of relics. Mr. John McP. Dennis presented a pedigreed short-horn heifer to the dairy herd. The Maryland Historical Society requested the Vice Regent to obtain missing numbers of the Annual Report of the Mt. Vernon Ladies Association, as a complete set was desired for the library. Through the courtesy of Mr. Dodge and Mr. Young these reports were furnished them. The whole story of the restoration of Mr. Vernon is now preserved among the records of the Maryland Historical Society, and a grateful letter from the librarian was received in acknowledgement. Since the last meeting of the Council the former Vice Regent for Maryland has passed away. Her connection with this Association was among the pleasantest memories

of her life and her interest in Mount Vernon affairs unabated. Her loss will be felt by many to whom she had endeared herself while Vice Regent.

Reports have been distributed and interest awakened that it is hoped may bear abundant fruit in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,

FANNY J. D. ROGERS,

Vice Regent.

#### MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPORT.

No report.

#### MINNESOTA STATE REPORT.

I regret exceedingly that I cannot be present at the meeting of Council this year and beg to report that the Society of Colonial Dames of America in Minnesota has voted an annual donation of \$10.00 to the Mount Vernon Association, the first check for which I herewith enclose.

REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,

Vice Regent.

#### MICHIGAN STATE REPORT.

A contribution is made to the Vice Regent by the Detroit Mount Vernon Society, of \$125.00. Under the active leadership of its President, Mrs. Fyfe, this society has done the usual good work the past year. The entertainment given under its auspices on the 22d of February, which consisted of an address by Mr. Charles Moore on "George Washington, Esq.," followed by a reception and sale of Mount Vernon mementoes, was a fitting celebration of the day and added something to the treasury of the Society.

Two rare engravings of General Washington are presented by Mr. Henry C. Sturgis of New York; one is an artist's proof. These engravings were drawn and engraved by Frederic S. Stuart from the medallion carved by Samuel McIntyre, from his original drawing from life made when Washington visited Salem October 29, 1789, and is now in the Essex Institute.

The Vice Regent presents a brass rubbing made from the brass tablet on the tomb of Robert Washington, Gentleman, who died in 1622, and his wife, in Great Brington Church, which is six miles from Sulgrave Manor, England. Also brass rubbings presented to the Association by William Curtis, from the tomb of

Lawrence Washington, Gentleman, who died in 1564, and his wife, who were buried in Sulgrave church. In each of these rubbings is seen the Washington escutcheon, from which the flag of our nation was modeled. These brass rubbings have become very valuable because of the difficulty of obtaining permission to make them.

Additional interest attaches to these brass rubbings from the tombs of the Washingtons of Northhamptonshire, as a controversy was started on the subject by information having been made to Bishop Potter that the Washington escutcheon over the doorway at Sulgrave Manor had been stolen and sold to an American. The Bishop offered a reward for its recovery. Mr. Moncure Conway claimed, through the press, that it would be impossible to remove the escutcheon, as it was in a crumbling condition, and thought that either the Bishop had been misinformed, or that one of the brass tablets had been stolen. The Vice Regent consulted the Vicar of Sulgrave Church on the subject, and he wrote her that the escutcheon had not been stolen from the manor, but was in a crumbling condition. He also says that the brass tablets on the Washington tombs at Sulgrave and Great Brington Churches remain as they have been for many years. A century or two ago the brass tablet on the tomb of Lawrence Washington was partially mutilated by fanatics, but it has suffered no further injury since that time.

Miss Mary Richmond of Ann Arbor, Michigan, presents an impression in sealing wax made from General Washington's seal, that is owned by a member of the Curtis family.

A gift has been received from Mr. Colebrook, of Brighton, England, of a dozen York and Lancaster roses.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,

Vice Regent.

#### MISSOURI STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Missouri has distributed the memorial of Miss Cunningham and the annual reports of the Association (1905) in the public schools.

Received from the St. Louis chapter, D. A. R., \$25.00.

From Miss C. A. Graham, \$50.00, for contingent fund.

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM,

Vice Regent.

### NORTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.

Mount Vernon literature well distributed through the state, and repeated invitations to give personal reports from the Association, testify to the interest in my state.

Respectfully submitted,

LETITIA H. WALKER,  
Vice Regent.

### SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for South Carolina has little to report. She has distributed copies of the memorial and tried to arouse greater interest among the young in the Home and last resting place of the Greatest American, hoping that this may bear fruit in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,  
Vice Regent.

### TENNESSEE STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Tennessee has collected the \$100 promised for the Washington chair from the Hermitage.

Twenty-five dollars has been given by the public schools at Jackson, Chattanooga and Milan, the balance from the Vice Regent.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY YEATMAN WEBB,  
Vice Regent.

### TEXAS STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Texas has undertaken to have built a brick wall at the north boundary line of Mount Vernon. Two hundred and ten feet of this wall has been erected at a cost of \$984.05. Of this amount \$150 was contributed by Mrs. Denby, Vice Regent for Indiana. Mrs. Webb, Vice Regent for Tennessee, has offered to assist in this work.

Mrs. B. T. Estes, of Texarkana, has given a beautiful old, hand-woven spread and tablecover. The spread has been turned over to the Vice Regent for Virginia to be used on General Washington's bed.

Copies of the annual report were distributed and ivy plants have been sent to a number of schools.

Ten dollars has been donated by the El Paso Chapter of the D. A. R.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
Vice Regent.

### WEST VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for West Virginia has to report the furnishing of a bed room in the quarters as a loan collection, subject to her disposition, for use of and during the tenure of office of the Vice Regent for that state.

Respectfully submitted,

SARAH P. VAN RENSSELAER,

Vice Regent.

### VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.

Through the kindness of Miss Mary Custis Lee I have received as a loan to the Mount Vernon Association the following most interesting and valuable relics:

A window lambrekin which hung first in the President's house in Philadelphia, then at Mt. Vernon, and afterward at Arlington. It was taken from Arlington in 1862 and restored by President McKinley a few months before his death.

Two bed curtains embroidered by Martha Washington and probably used upon General Washington's bed. Taken from Arlington in 1862; deposited first in the Patent Office and later in the National Museum at Washington. Restored to the family of General Lee by President McKinley only a few months before his death.

I have received from Miss Pellet of Richmond, daughter of Mrs. Susan Pellet, first secretary of this Association, the first Mount Vernon subscription book of 1855, enclosing notes of the meeting, held in Richmond, for the organization of the Mount Vernon Association; also drafts of letters to John A. Washington and others. Printed appeals and leaflets calling for contributions to the fund for the purchase of Mt. Vernon and the future preservation of the Home of Washington. Twenty-two large packages of colored prints of the equestrian statue of Washington intended for sale for the Mount Vernon fund. A handsome mahogany card table, owned by Mrs. Pellet and once belonging to General Washington at Mount Vernon. Two very heavy ledger and journal books in leather, handsomely bound.

From Mrs. Lyster, of Michigan, a historic knitted bed spread.

From the Vice Regent for Texas a handsome antique bed-spread.

From Mrs. William Ruffin Cox, twenty dollars, to aid in the purchase of General Washington's shaving stand.

I offered young trees from Mount Vernon to the A. P. V. A. Association for planting at Jamestown, but the sites for projected memorial monuments being undetermined the trees could not yet be planted there. The offer of Council was appreciated and thanks returned.

The mirror presented by the Vice Regent for Illinois has been hung by her request in General Washington's bed room. This mirror was purchased twenty-five years ago and is a genuine relic, having belonged to General Washington at Mount Vernon.

Respectfully submitted,

EMMA R. BALL, Vice Regent.

## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Regent and Vice Regents of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Ladies:

I have the honor to submit herewith my report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1906. In point of the number of visitors, we have never had (except during the year of the Grand Army Convention, 1902) so large an attendance. Our books record over 100,000 people who have done homage to Washington during the past twelvemonth—an increase of more than 13,000 over the previous year. The reduction of transportation rates by the Boat Company doubtless attracted more pilgrims, and in great part the open winter had a beneficial effect.

### DISTINGUISHED FOREIGNERS.

Among the visitors of especial note were Count Witte and Baron Rosen, the Russian Peace Plenipotentiaries, Prince Louis of Battenberg, Admiral Edward Seymour, Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, the Imperial Chinese Commission, Earl Grey, Governor General of Canada, and officers of the French naval fleet recently attending the obsequies of John Paul Jones. These parties were brought to Mount Vernon on U. S. naval vessels, permission to land and gratuitous entrance being extended by your Association to these "guests of the nation."

The resolution of last Council to stop the landing of private

parties from government boats had a salutary effect. I mailed to the Secretary of the President a copy of the resolution and asked him to repeat it to the several departments. This he seems to have done, with the desired result.

### BOAT CONTRACT.

The contract arranged by the Acting Regent and special committee (after last Council) with the Mount Vernon and Marshall Hall Steamboat Company, Lmt'd., went into operation June 1, 1905, (See p. 75, Minutes).

The regular schedule of trips was continued until December 1, when the boat was withdrawn for its annual overhauling. On March 1, travel by water was resumed, and our records show that the old-time popularity of this route has not abated.

The plan of collecting our entrance fees at the Mount Vernon wharf I find, after a year's trial, to be unsatisfactory. There are two or three objections:

- (a) The congestion of crowds at the wharf gates owing to delays in making change.
- (b) Danger of gatekeeper being robbed.
- (c) Necessity of extra guard at wharf.

If possible to persuade the Boat Company to resume the sale of coupon tickets it should be done at once.

The shallow condition of the channel connecting our wharf with the main channel of the river is such that great difficulty exists in operating a boat of even so light draft as the Macalester, especially when the normal tides are depleted by northwest gales. On two or three occasions, for this reason, the boat could not enter this channel. After consulting the U. S. engineer officials and learning that nothing short of a bill in Congress could bring us relief, I laid the matter before the representative of this Congressional district, Mr. Rixey, and he embodied it in a bill for the improvement of Mount Vernon channel. Whether it will be favorably acted on remains to be seen.

Before mentioning topics of more general character, I must ask your indulgence while I report concerning the instructions handed to me at last Council. For convenience let us follow the order as stated on page 55 of the Minutes of 1905.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPERINTENDENT.

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### FROM COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS, TREES AND SHRUBS.

No. 1. Ivy was planted at sun dial and trained to cover pedestal.

No. 2. Similar planting was made along the brick walls of kitchen garden, the bases of the coach house and smoke house, and new wall erected at North Lodge gate.

No. 3. The lawn space between stone walk and the north wall of flower garden was graded and sodded as directed. Hedges were omitted from the borders by subsequent order of Acting Chairman of Grounds Committee. This space may serve a double purpose of utility, viz: as a sunken garden in summer, and where (by quickflooding in winter) our much-needed supply of ice may be harvested. Last winter, unfortunately, was too mild to test this.

No. 4. The ancient locust tree which stood at the southeast corner of the Mansion, having died, was removed and replaced, as directed, by a tulip poplar.

No. 5. Over a hundred young trees were set out early this spring where the Committee on Grounds indicated the advisability of filling blank spaces, viz., bordering the road north of the flower garden, 16 maples and 8 elms; along the lane west of barn, 16 maples; at the foot of slopes on river front, 15 box elders.

For a pleached arbor effect over the sylvan path to wharf, 12 red bud (or Judas) trees. In the borders north and south of the bowling green, 13 dogwood and 13 Judas trees.

At scattered points were placed the following miscellaneous list: oaks, beech, ash, sassafras, arbor vitae, butternut, hickory, pin oak, mountain ash, etc.

For the maples and elms we are indebted to the commissioners of the District of Columbia; for the two specimens of mountain ash to Messrs. Siebrecht & Son, of New Rochelle, N. Y.

The six arbor vitae were purchased from the Berckman's nursery, near Augusta, Georgia, by the Vice Regent, of New York.

All the other trees were transplanted from our nearby woods.

No. 6. Through the U. S. Bureau of Forestry I have supplied 168 applications from delegates who attended the last Forestry Congress, with seedling oaks from Mount Vernon. Looking



forward to these "special gifts," and to hoped-for orders in future, we started a nursery of forest trees by transplanting (during the winter) over 1,000 seedling oaks of three varieties, and planting bushels of acorns for sprouting.

The plan of sending young trees and ivy to Jamestown was not forgotten, but after correspondence through the Vice Regent for Virginia it was found advisable to postpone this until the Jamestown grounds are more definitely arranged for the planting.

A number of seedling oaks were mailed to the Vice Regent for Kansas for use in the parks of Ottawa.

Count Witte and Baron Rosen, Russian Peace Plenipotentiaries, planted an Ash near the old tomb, September 10, 1905.

His Lordship Earl Grey, Governor General of Canada, planted an Ash on the lawn northeast of the Mansion, April 5, 1906.

No. 7. The road from the wharf to the tomb was graded and reconstructed under a contract with Mr. McNamara, a noted road builder. A base course of six inches of broken stone was laid and rolled to a compact thickness of 5 inches; next, a course of red clay gravel rolled to 1 inch; this followed by a medium grade of broken stone (as a binder) rolled to depth of 1 inch, and again, a 2 inch course of granite grit. As a finish course 1 inch of Virginia blue lime stone was applied. This makes in all ten inches of stone surface, well graded and drained by a substantial cobble gutter with side reliefs of terra cotta at proper intervals.

The side of the road next the guard rail was strengthened by a low revetment wall hidden (from the driveway) by grading and a covering of honeysuckle.

Near the wharf the edge of the road is sodded with myrtle and spaces adjoining are sown with lawn mixture.

In this connection I should mention that the most prominent and extensive stretches of the broken hillside along the river front were sloped and sodded with a protection of honeysuckle.

The triangular space between the road and path to stone steps is made more attractive by an assemblage of flowering shrubs.

A rustic seat was improvised under the large box elder tree near the wharf.

No. 8. Extension of the water plant was carried into effect by Mr. Archer, as far as laying the service pipes to our most distant pasture field (on the north) and branching therefrom to

supply other lots, as well as three cabins occupied by employees.

This improvement over former conditions is very marked and especially appreciated by those who had so long used the surface well water.

The scheme of increasing our pumping facilities by installing electric machinery and renting the power from the Electric Railway Co., I have thought best to withhold, for the present at least, until a more independent plan can be demonstrated.

It will be necessary to re-line the reservoir tanks which are located in the apex of the palm house roof. These tanks have been in constant use the past nine years and are absolutely essential to our water system.

No. 9. A notice was conspicuously posted at the wharf calling attention to the payment of entrance fees.

An explanatory tablet was placed near the tomb, reading as follows: "Washington's Tomb, erected 1830-1831. Site and material specified in Washington's will."

#### FROM COMMITTEE ON MANSION.

No. 1. The shingle roof of the Mansion was painted with a, so called, fire resisting paint, and darker than the last used.

Roofs of the east portico, library porch, colonnades, wagon shed, and palm house were likewise painted.

The greenhouses, gates and fences near the Mansion, and the fences at wharf were painted white, while the wharf pavilion received a coat of storm gray.

No. 2. The discoloration of the Connecticut room ceiling, caused by leakage through a sun cracked shingle, was corrected.

No. 3. The ceilings in Quarters, too, were repaired and leaks in roofs stopped wherever discovered.

No. 4. The window and latch in the Minnesota room were repaired.

#### FROM COMMITTEE ON FURNITURE.

No. 1. The washstand in Lafayette Room was cleaned and varnished.

No. 2. The very fragile old lace curtains in the music room, were rejected by professional cleaners as being too delicate to handle.

No. 3. Small ornaments on dressing table of Delaware room were readjusted.

No. 4. The spreads in North Carolina and West Virginia rooms have been cleaned.

A suitable cooking range with boiler attachment was purchased as per action of Council—page 67, Minutes, 1905.

Woodlawn furniture offered, as a loan by Mrs. E. M. Willis, and accepted by Council (see page 59) was not received after all. Subsequent correspondence proved that the loan was intended for so short a time it was hardly worth while to make the changes it would involve in the Maryland room.

#### FROM KITCHEN GARDEN COMMITTEE.

No. 1. In the borders of the kitchen garden, sheltered by the north wall, we planted such sweet herbs as basil, savory, borage, wormwood and rue. These in addition to lavender, sage, thyme and sweet marjoram, which had been growing there two years, lend an air and odor of antiquity to the old garden.

No. 2. The wall fruits were more carefully trained by making fast to supporting wires.

#### FROM RECORD COMMITTEE.

No. 1. Miss Cunningham's letter of 1853, regarding the purchase of Mount Vernon, was framed in double glass and hung under her portrait in the Family Dining Room, according to the order of Council, (see page 67).

A matter which was left to the decision of the Regent and Superintendent, viz: the moving of Vickers house to a less conspicuous site, was postponed until the Regent could visit Mount Vernon and choose an appropriate location.

So much for the "instructions."

Other items accomplished are as follows:

#### BRICK WALL.

To replace in part our boundary fence adjoining the North Lodge Gate the Vice Regent for Texas was authorized to have built, at her expense, a substantial brick wall similar to some here which were of General Washington's planning. Rather than sacrifice many trees growing along our party line this wall was located six feet inside our boundary limit.

Besides saving the trees it seems best to have it so, because we can now park the strip outside the wall and make it attractive by planting there evergreen trees, shrubs and ivy.

### COAL.

Taking advantage of comparatively low prices I ordered, early in May, 1905, what coal we should require for winter use.

Broken, or furnace coal, was purchased at from \$5.10 to \$5.20 per ton, while the stove coal cost \$5.40 per ton. These prices were for unbroken carloads shipped direct from the mines in Pennsylvania to our north gate.

For hauling these cars from Alexandria over their line the Electric Railway made extra charges of course.

### TELEPHONE.

Council authorized a change in our telephone facilities, looking to reduction of expense. To this end an arrangement was made with the Southern Bell Co. on the basis of a toll system instead of our having to pay \$175.00 per year as before.

With the Capital City Telephone Co., we have unlimited service in Virginia upon payment of \$2.00 per month. On this plan we save about \$150.00.

### GUIDE BOOK.

The Mount Vernon guide book, having been revised by the committee, was placed in the hands of the publisher, July, 1905. Not until November did we receive the new edition. Thus we lost the opportunity of sales when unusually large crowds visited here in July and August.

To protect our interests in this book I had it copyrighted in the name of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

### POST CARDS.

The post cards showing Mount Vernon views were very popular, judging from the rapidity of their sale. The first edition was exhausted early in April, but another is now in preparation and will have some better views of principal features.

### TOMB.

Besides painting the iron enclosures about the tombs and relaying portions of pavement there, no repairs have been necessary.

Around the base of shafts marking the graves of "Nellie Custis" (Mrs. Lewis) and her daughter, I planted white myrtle which was kindly brought for the purpose by our friend and

neighbor Mr. Lewis Gillingham.

The regular occasions for decorating the tomb were appropriately observed. On May 30 a handsome wreath was received from the White House.

June 15, the North American Turner Bund (a musical society) deposited a wreath.

December 14, memorial tributes were brought by delegates from the Masonic lodges of Fredericksburg and Alexandria.

December 25, an evergreen wreath, by two children representing a school at Montreat, N. C.

Feb. 22, beautiful floral offering from Mexican Ambassador.

April 19, Children of American Revolution placed a wreath in the tomb.

April 26, a similar tribute by officers of the French fleet visiting this country.

In October last I returned to the Sigma Chi fraternity on their written request, the stone and metal tablet they sent here in 1892 for the purpose of marking the ivy planted at the tomb by them some time before.

It will be recalled that Council declined to allow the tablet to be placed as they desired.

#### COACH.

Another article withdrawn was the old carriage presented to Mount Vernon in 1894 by Mr. R. L. Brownfield, of Philadelphia, and claimed to be one which belonged to Washington. A year or two ago Mr. Brownfield asked Council to return the old vehicle to him. This was agreed to.

#### FARM.

The farming operations have been looked after with interest and a fair degree of success. The experiment with improved varieties of cowpeas demonstrated the value of such a crop, not only for forage, but as benefitting the soil. The whippoorwill peas seemed best adapted to existing conditions and we harvested an excellent quality of hay therefrom, though better results would have followed if crop had been sown in May instead of June.

For late pasture these peas were sown on corn land after the last working. On removal of the corn the cows and horses had the advantage of this nourishing food until frost.

As a midsummer supply of green food for the cows we tried teosinte, and were well pleased with it. If planted early in June several crops may be obtained before frost.

We made 90 barrels of corn, and an abundant supply of fodder, besides filling the silo.

About twelve acres were sown to rye where pea stubble had been plowed under. This affords good early spring pasture and the residue we turn under to lighten the clay. Crimson clover, put in for the same purpose, did not succeed as was hoped it might, nor did winter oats do well.

The peculiar succession of freezing and thawing had a marked effect on all the winter crops. Spring oats were sown early in April, also redtop and white clover, the latter on the Tomb lot, where crimson clover had made so poor a showing.

By growing peas and rye and plowing under as much of it as possible, this with frequent applications of lime will change completely the character of our dense soil. Much compost was obtained from the great quantity of leaves gathered about the grounds and mixed with barn-yard manure.

Grubbing old stumps and sprouts along the edges of fields, burning brush and filling gullies, had attention when other more important work could not be attempted on account of the weather. A section of the farm road, where it joins the newly surfaced road from the wharf, was graded, graveled and surfaced with ashes so as to correspond—in color—with the connecting driveway.

To facilitate the hauling of the great quantity of honeysuckle sod used on the river front last winter, also to get much drift-wood along our shores, I opened a roadway beyond where the sea-wall terminates at the north.

This saves long and laborious hauling over the hills as heretofore required.

### LIVE STOCK.

A disease which was epidemic in this section last summer killed ten of the fifteen young Shropshire ewes. The flock should be increased, for I am convinced the pasturing of sheep on these lawns is of great benefit.

The sale of the old flock netted \$105.00. Six calves were sold, also two old cows and two deer.

From the Vice Regent for Maryland we received a handsome short-horn heifer calf bearing the name of Eleanore Calvert.

We have now, in the way of live stock, six horses, two mules, five cows, two heifers, one bull, six sheep and eighteen deer.

I have arranged to exchange with a friend some of our deer to improve the stock.

### GROUNDS.

The discouragements experienced heretofore regarding the condition of our lawns in early spring have been lessened in a great degree by the result of an experiment made here last autumn. The turf in the forecourt was hopelessly filled with Bermuda grass, which our many attempts failed to eradicate. The objection to this grass is that it dies off on the surface when the first frost comes and until late spring the earth is completely bare of turf. The Vice Regent from Georgia explained a remedy followed successfully in her state where this Bermuda grass flourishes.

The dead grass is thoroughly raked off and the soil is then cut deeply with a sharp harrow. After smoothing with rakes perennial rye grass seed is applied liberally and rolled. Quick to start, the fresh green is soon in evidence, and by spring the roots have become well established, as the spaces west of the Mansion now show.

Next autumn I think it would be advisable to treat in similar manner the lawn facing the river.

It is next to impossible to so control the throngs of visitors as to prevent damage to the turf bordering the walks. The gravel is harsh to the feet, and naturally people will walk on the sod edges, thus breaking it irregularly. Near the Mansion this is especially noticeable—some sort of curbing should be used.

Trimming trees, both shade and fruit trees, had attention, but there is much more of it to do this year. Hedges were trimmed and winter killed portions renewed. Several of the young trees near the tomb were handicapped by lack of drainage through the heavy clay where they had been planted.

Deep trenches were dug and filled with gravel through which the surface water (after rains) could quickly filter. These blind ditches were found to be of great benefit.

A large terra cotta drain was laid through the park to the river and the unsightly ravine there closed.

We whitewashed fences and some of the walls, but where it is intended to grow ivy the bricks should not be treated.

The Washington Lodge of Philadelphia has asked permission to plant a tree at Mount Vernon next September. This was granted by the Regent.

### GENERAL REPAIRS.

The list of repairs is so long and of such miscellaneous character I will have to mention each subject briefly.

Brick piers and heavy timbers were placed in the Mansion cellar as a precaution against the natural depletion in strength of the old structure, and to resist the ever increasing strain as the years add to the number of visitors.

Shingle roofs of the various buildings were patched and painted.

Eave gutters of all the buildings were examined and renewed where necessary.

Greenhouses were painted, sashes reglazed, and staging repaired.

The metal arch and the woodwork of North Lodge Gate; the ballustrade on east portico and library porch; the well house back of kitchen; the dormer windows of Quarters; the lavatory; screens of doors and windows—all were painted.

For the iron fences near both tombs and for painting boilers asphaltum varnish was used.

The chemical engines, and the grates of the heating apparatus were overhauled, likewise the pumps, fire engines, implements and hydraulic rams.

New cellar doors were made for the spinning house; new steps for the corner crib; a new floor and drip trough for the kitchen well house; also new floors in two of the outbuildings.

Incidental to the installment of a new range and boiler in the kitchen some repairs were necessary to the sink and the plastering

The portable bridge for landing passengers from the steamboat was reconstructed, and where the earth filling of the wharf crib settled stone rubbish was packed in its place.

A portion of the brick wall at lower side of the kitchen



garden required underpinning to support it.

The brick pavements too, required some minor correction.

From a shed in the barn-yard enough roofing and material was available to construct a commodious poultry house.

Two of the farm bridges were repaired and made serviceable.

The timber lining of the tunnels was looked after with especial care. A few of the timbers showed signs of deterioration and were at once strengthened. I will treat of this further along in my list of recommendations.

### RELICS.

Under this head are some items of interest.

The Craik chair (left by Washington—with his desk—to Dr. Craik) was purchased during last Council, but did not reach Mount Vernon until May 22.

A French hunting horn which the Marquis Lafayette presented to Washington has found its place at Mount Vernon again, through the kindness of Judge James A. Pearce, of Maryland.

An ivory paper knife and a shoe-horn, vouched for by Mrs. Kennon as having belonged to Washington, were deposited here last summer by a lady who wishes to sell them.

From Mrs. J. P. Baldwin, of New Orleans, we have received as a loan a locket which belonged to Nellie Custis.

Mr. Wm. H. Blackburn, of the District of Columbia, has given, what is considered, the smallest portrait of Washington ever executed. It is a microscopic engraving upon an ordinary shirtstud, done by one of the inmates of Dartmouth prison.

In 1899 Dr. Thos. E. Ridgway loaned to Mount Vernon a well preserved Washington letter. This he has now withdrawn in order to complete his private collection.

Since last Council I have received an avalanche of letters from parties offering relics for sale. Prices were in most cases prompted by what the Association had paid for the desk, chair and shaving stand, and were out of all proportion to the character of articles offered.

Here are a few of the communications, all of which I acknowledged and referred to this Council. (Letters given to Secretary).

### DONATIONS.

I must not omit mention of certain gifts received as follows:

Nov., 1905, photos of Wakefield and Sulgrave, from Mr. W. E. Curtis.

Nov., 1905, a memorial volume descriptive of Washington Sesqui Centennial Celebration. This from Mr. Geo. W. Kendrick, of Philadelphia.

Dec., 1905, a Christmas present of \$100, for the guards and servants, came from the Vice Regent for California.

Jan., 1906, through the Commissioners of District of Columbia, forty-two trees were given to us for planting here, while from the famous nurseries of Siebrecht & Son of New Rochelle, N. Y., we received two fine specimens of mountain ash.

Feb., 1906, In time for our celebration of the "twenty-second" came two handsome National flags, given by a niece of our lamented friend, Miss McFadden.

April, 1906, five unique engravings of Washington were presented by Mrs. Wentworth, of Cambridge, through the Vice Regent for Massachusetts.

### RECOMMENDATIONS.

What I deem most important for your consideration and action this year are as follows:

#### COMPLETION OF THE DRAINAGE TUNNELS.

Two years have elapsed since these tunnels were constructed. Their efficiency is self evident. Nothing has occurred to indicate the necessity for any future alteration in those drains, but there is pressing need for the final treatment of them, because the timber lining will soon lose its power to uphold the weight it now bears. Mr. Archer, the engineer, who directed the original construction, has submitted a plan for perfecting the utility of these drains. Briefly it is to fill the tunnels with gravel rather than to attempt the expensive and questionable scheme (at one time thought advisable) of lining the tunnels with concrete masonry so as to leave them always open.

The opinion of eminent engineers who examined into this subject concur as to correctness of original project, first class construction and wisdom of plan for completion by a gravel core.

The estimated cost of this work approximates \$1,000.

#### STORM DRAINS.

At the north end of the deer park is a ravine worn to con-

siderable depth already by the volumes of surface water which pour through it after heavy rains. This wearing away of the hillside may, we fear, weaken the footing of clay and induce another slide. To guard against such an occurrence a large terra cotta conduit should be laid there and the unsightly ravine be closed. The cost will be in the neighborhood of \$300.

#### GREENHOUSE TANKS.

Nine years ago the large tanks which serve as reservoirs (under the greenhouse roof) were lined with galvanized iron. This lining is defective and must be renewed without delay. I have a bid for this—\$125.

#### FORCE PUMP.

To replace an equipment which is obsolete, by a gasoline engine and pump for forcing water from the artesian well seems advisable on the score of economy and efficiency—\$150 should cover this improvement.

#### WHARF REPAIRS.

The wear and tear on the fender piles at the wharf is very great, owing to the grinding pressure of the boat as it lands and turns.

I have estimates on this work which consists in procuring suitable oak piles, driving them firmly into position and binding them compactly with wire cables. \$250.00 should be allowed for this.

#### VICKERS HOUSE.

The proposition at last Council to move to a less conspicuous location the dwelling built some years ago for the housekeeper, could not well be carried into effect then. This year, however, it can be moved if a suitable place for it be determined.

#### MANSION REPAIRS.

My constant solicitude for the welfare of Mount Vernon keeps me continually on the watch for trouble. This old Mansion has borne the brunt of hard usage wonderfully well, but as it was never expected—when planned—that it would be subjected to such unusual wear and tear as of late years, no provision was originally made to resist it.

Looking forward to very large crowds coming here in the

near future, I wish to renew badly worn flooring in passageways and to strengthen some of the important timbers, to make the framework more rigid. In order to do this it may be necessary to deny visitors the privilege of going to the upper floors for a few days. I speak of this because the public is very apt to express displeasure when restricted. These precautions are, nevertheless, essential.

#### DRIVEWAY.

If upon your inspection, the recent road work near the wharf is sufficiently satisfactory, I should advise that another section of the driveway be similarly improved this year.

#### FARM.

For improving the farm we must have plenty of lime. The expenditure of about \$250.00 per year for this will be money well spent.

We also need certain farming implements. I hope the committee on the farm will study our requirements and assist me in planning to the best advantage.

What I have mentioned by way of recommendations will require fuller explanations after the committees have had a chance to consider each case.

#### EMPLOYES.

The list of employes remains practically the same as at your last annual meeting. All have been faithful to their duties.

Hammond, the guard at the tomb, failed in health during the winter and I furloughed him, hoping he would be able to resume his duties by now, but I regret to say he is no better.

#### CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I must thank you for your kind attention to my lengthy and prosaic recital. Trusting that my efforts may merit your approval, I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant,

HARRISON H. DODGE,

Res. Secty. and Supt.

## GARDENER'S REPORT.

Ladies:

In submitting my annual report I am glad to say that everything has progressed favorably during the past year.

Plants under glass during the winter months did remarkably well, and outside little or no damage was done, as the weather was less severe than in former years.

The increased travel has enabled me to show a slight increase in receipts—an increase in cash turned in to Superintendent of \$77.56 over last year.

Receipts for the year.....\$831.02

Expenditures for postage, etc..... 16.27

Cash turned in to Superintendent...\$814.75

Orders of last Council have been carried out. Lily of the valley multiplied by divisions. Ivies planted as borders to crape myrtle beds. Violet borders extended. Ivies planted at the walls, and at railroad entrance, etc., etc.

Hoping the Council may find the greenhouses and garden in satisfactory condition, I am, dear Ladies,

Yours very faithfully,

FRANKLIN A. WHELAN,

Mt. Vernon, Va., May 10, 1906.

Head Gardener.

## REPORT OF SECRETARY FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 1, 1906.

Wrote and had printed sixty copies Minutes of Council, 1905, of seventy-six pages.

Eight hundred copies of Reports, sixty-one pages.

Cost of printing .....\$90.00

Cheque from Regent to printer.....\$90.00

## OFFICE EXPENSES.

Typewriting .....\$11.75

Assistant ..... 5.25

Expressage, postage, stationery..... 36.46

Summons to Council and envelopes ..... 1.25

Total .....\$54.71

Balance on hand from 1905..... 17.00

\$37.71

Cheque from Regent .....\$50.00

Expenses ..... 37.71

Balance on hand .....\$12.29

Distributed five hundred copies of reports; sent the remaining copies to Mount Vernon, with twenty-one copies of the minutes.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

### MANSION COMMITTEE.

In the absence of the Chairman of the Mansion Committee the other members, accompanied Mr. Dodge on an interesting round of inspection of what has been done the past year to render the old Mansion more secure.

The committee examined the increased wear upon the tiles of the front veranda. Many of them have been turned to get a smooth surface, but others present a broken appearance. It has been proposed to lay down rubber matting where most of the visitors walk. The estimated cost of rubber mats is about \$600.00, and they would probably last six years. This is a matter for Council to decide.

In the cellar more than forty brick piles have been put in recently to support the flooring of the first story, and beams of Georgia pine have replaced many of the old ones, and wedges of slate inserted to shore up the flooring and take strain off the timbers. Same measures have been taken under the stair cases and in other places where necessary. These supports have been built in closets and other hidden places.

A necessity may arise to remove flooring and timbers on second story landing in order to put in iron braces, for safety.

In the kitchen a new range and boiler attachments have been set. The floor needs to be repaired. The plastering has been replaced wherever broken. On all the small buildings the eave gutters have been renewed.

ALICE HILL,

Chairman, pro tem.

ELLEN W. HARRISON.

FANNY J. D. ROGERS.

### FURNITURE COMMITTEE.

The committee finds the rooms in good order, and make a few suggestions.

That where necessary the furniture should be polished.

That the white dimity curtains and covers should be washed.

In west parlor finds sofa and chairs somewhat soiled and worn. Suggest that no one sit in this room and that the iron gates be kept closed that no one may walk over the Louis XVI carpet, even during Council.

In Music Room, suggest that clean cards be placed in rooms

and picture cords be carefully examined and when necessary renewed, especially in Banquet Room.

In New Jersey room: The dressing table needs two bits of veneering to be replaced.

In West Virginia Room: Two bits of veneer off the washstand.

In General Washington's room. Suggests dimity cover on large arm chair. The old quilt once used on General Washington's bed to be sent to Mrs. Harrison, who will have it repaired and cleaned and returned to Mount Vernon.

Reg that in summer the blinds of windows be kept bowed and sashes kept down to keep rooms cooler and protect from flies.

GEORGIA P. WILDER,  
Chairman.  
CHRISTINE E. GRAHAM.  
ELLEN W. HARRISON.  
HARRIET C. COMEGYS.

#### LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

Your committee reports the books in the library in excellent condition. They increase in numbers and in historical value every year.

MARGARET J. M. SWEAT.  
Acting Chairman.  
MARY YEATMAN WEBB.  
LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON.  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

#### GROUNDS, SHRUBS AND TREES COMMITTEE.

In the absence of Mrs. Leiter, chairman of your committee, I have the honor to report upon the successful accomplishment of the recommendations made at last Council, as also to offer suggestions for the work of the coming year.

The new road from tomb to wharf is completed and is now a dry, firm roadway during the wet season, thus proving its thorough construction.

The trees advised to be planted are doing well; there were over one hundred in all, and promise a welcome shade in a few years.

A conspicuous improvement is seen in the sunken lawn behind north wall of flower garden.

The ivy planted is flourishing.

For the many details of work done on the grounds your

committee would call attention to our Superintendent's judgment and unceasing care in the execution of the instructions left him.

Your committee begs your attention and decision upon the following recommendations:

First in importance is the necessity for a speedy completion of the tunnels by filling with gravel to insure at all times perfect drainage.

The expert opinion of all engineers confirms the plans of Mr. Archer, who constructed these tunnels. The estimated cost of filling and finishing is \$1,000.

Your attention is called to the constant destruction of the sides of the turf bordering the circle. To prevent this a border of vitrified brick is advised, which, being colorless, would be invisible. Cost, \$250.00.

In this connection we would suggest that an application of fine red gravel be applied to the road around the circle and rolled into the clay, thus by hardening the clay prevent formation of the mud which is now tracked into the Mansion much to its injury.

The wharf needs repairs in new piles. The estimate for this work is \$250.00.

A storm drain in the Deer Park on the north end where there is a deep ravine, already much worn away by surface water and threatening a land slide, is greatly needed. A terra cotta conduit laid there would avert the danger and close this unsightly ravine. Cost, \$300.00.

The cobble stone drains at side of roads are constantly filling with grass and needing cleaning out. We would recommend a coating of tar to prevent this growth as also to prevent the unsetting of the stones after heavy rains. This method is in use at West Point and other Government stations.

There are gaps in the privet hedges to be replanted. Two spireas to be set out as indicated near the road to the tomb. To plant persimmon trees in the Deer Park. This fruit is considered beneficial to the health of these animals.

SUSAN E. J. HUDSON,  
Acting Chairman.

ELLEN W. HARRISON.  
CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM.  
ALICE HILL.



### GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE.

The committee finds everything in the garden and greenhouse in excellent condition. The directions given to Mr. Whelan have been faithfully carried out and there are only a few additional directions to be given for the following year. An extension of the privet hedge, which is on the opposite side of the lane in the rear of the quarters, is recommended so that it may overlap, leaving only space at the opening for the entrance of a wheelbarrow; the compost heap, hot beds, etc., needing to be more perfectly screened. The committee advises that the entrance to this enclosure for a wagon be made from the other side.

Iron corrugated trash boxes are recommended to be placed in suitable positions, for the collection of waste paper, etc., which accumulates during the meeting of Council.

The gardener is directed to substitute pyrethrums (golden featherfew), ivy, and cinnamon pinks for the grass borders now in use for some of the small beds.

In accordance with directions, Mr. Whelan has corresponded with a great many florists all over the country in endeavoring to secure some plants of the "York and Lancaster Rose," to grow in the Mount Vernon garden. This is an old rose that was supposed by Mrs. Alice Morse Earle to be extinct. Mr. Whelan has secured a dozen plants from a Rochester florist which purport to be the "real thing."

Miss Comegys has also secured from an old colonial garden, in Germantown, Pennsylvania, two plants of this rose, and an English gentleman, Mr. Colebrooke, of Brighton, hearing that we were in search of this old rose, sent a dozen plants from England to our head gardener. We are awaiting the blooming of these plants to see if they are living up to their ancient pedigree, and we have great hopes of being able to make a specialty at Mount Vernon of this old, historic rose.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
Acting Chairman.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.

FRANCES C. MAXEY.

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS.

SARAH P. VAN RENSSELAER.

### THE KITCHEN GARDEN COMMITTEE.

The committee reports that they find the garden in excellent order; onions, salad, cabbage and asparagus all now being served to the Council. The border of herbs ordered planted at the last Council is a great addition. The committee suggests that currant bushes be planted to correspond with the gooseberry bushes, and that the York and Lancaster rose be planted in the garden.

Respectfully submitted,

ELLEN W. HARRISON,

Chairman.

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS.

S. P. VAN RENSSELAER.

ELIZABETH W. A. PRINGLE.

LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON.

### THE FARM COMMITTEE.

The Farm committee reports a good finding in the condition of the farm. There is a field of red clover, which later will be ploughed under to enrich the soil, which certainly is very, very poor and needs much manure and lime.

The water supply, contemplated last year, has proved most successful in the outlying pasture fields. The "New Era" peas have proved a valuable crop for feeding cattle and enriching the soil.

The committee respectfully requests an appropriation of four hundred dollars for lime and manure; two hundred dollars for the purchase of farm implements, such as seed sower, drill and feed cutter—all most necessary for good farm work.

The committee is glad to report a marked improvement in the appearance of the cows.

ELLEN W. HARRISON.

Chairman.

ELIZABETH W. A. PRINGLE.

GEORGIA P. WILDER.

MARY YEATMAN WEBB.

### TOMB COMMITTEE.

A careful inspection of both tombs shows them to be in good condition. A more liberal planting of ivy on the walls, and the necessary guards to protect it is recommended. A uniform color

to the lettering on the panel of tomb is also suggested. The destruction of the grass plats in front of the tomb by the crowd of visitors is to be deplored, but it is hoped a remedy can be suggested.

The committee would suggest the employment of another man at the Tomb to prevent the destruction of grass and ivy.

LETITIA H. WALKER.

Chairman.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

FRANCES C. MAXEY.

EMMA R. BALL.

FANNY J. D. ROGERS.

#### RECORD COMMITTEE.

Your committee has received from the Vice Regent for Virginia letters and pamphlets which have been returned to the Association by the daughter of the first Secretary, Mrs. Pellet. In the package we find the first subscription book kept in Richmond, pamphlets of appeals printed in 1855 and 1857, and a few letters and newspaper clippings showing the work done in states first represented in the Association. These will be placed with the other records in the Library.

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS.

Chairman.

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON.

JENNIE M. WARD.

#### COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS.

In the absence of the other members of the committee any direct action of the committee is inappropriate, but the Acting Chairman desires to give the notice required at this Council to secure certain amendments and additions to the body of the by-laws at the next Council.

MARGARET J. M. SWEAT.

Acting Chairman.

#### THE GUIDE BOOK COMMITTEE.

The edition of the guide book being exhausted last year, when Council met it became necessary to get out a new revised edition, which the committee hopes will meet with the approval of Council.

New illustrations have been substituted in several cases, and there have been a few alterations in the text.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.  
Chairman.

MARY YEATMAN WEBB.

#### RELIC COMMITTEE.

Relics found in good condition. List of those offered this year made by committee on Investigation of Relics.

MRS. G. P. WILDER,  
Acting Chairman.

#### POSTAL CARD COMMITTEE.

As the need was felt for a fine quality of picture postal cards, to be on sale at Mount Vernon, a committee was appointed to select views and styles of cards. As this work was experimental, only a moderate outlay was made, and a limited number of cards ordered. These were exhausted in the first six months, and with such financial success that the committee feels encouraged to double the expenditure for the coming year. A hundred per cent was made on the postal cards last year, and the committee asks for an appropriation of \$500.00 for the coming year.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
Acting Chairman.

CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM.  
HARRIET C. COMEGYS.

Appropriation granted by Council.

#### COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY LAW.

Your committee reports that after careful examination of various authoritative treatises on parliamentary rules, such as govern legislative and popular assemblies, they are of opinion that certain essential differences exist between such assemblies and this Association, making it desirable that an especial code be prepared for use at Councils and in our general rules of procedure.

In preparing the following rules for examination by Council your committee has made use of those portions of established parliamentary proceeding which are adapted to our Association, indicating them by quotation marks.

The conduct of affairs at our Councils can be successfully carried on only when the matters which are to be considered are regularly presented, debated and voted upon. "Business done under other circumstances is imperfect and, perhaps, illegal."

Therefore I would like, as chairman of this committee, to impress upon you the supreme importance of closely following the rules you adopt and of emulating those associations of women where the authority of parliamentary law is as rigidly enforced as in the Congress of the United States.

Form of procedure at Councils:

Order of business.

Reading of Scripture and Lord's Prayer.

Roll call of members.

Reading of Minutes of last Council.

Regent's Report.

State Reports in alphabetical order.

Superintendent's Report.

Treasurer's Report.

Reports of Committees.

Correspondence presented by the Regent

Read by Corresponding Secretary.

Correspondence presented by the Vice Regents

Read by Corresponding Secretary.

Correspondence presented by the Superintendent

Read by Corresponding Secretary.

Consideration of nominations for Vice Regents at last Council.

Delay in confirmation may follow a request presented in writing by any three Vice Regents.

It may be well to set aside a morning hour for hearing reports from committees to avoid confusion in keeping the minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGARET J. M. SWEAT,

Chairman.

ALICE HILL.

The following report of special committee on beautifying grounds at North Lodge Gate was presented by Mrs. Maxey:

The committee has written to Mr. Ffoulkes, manager of the Mount Vernon Railway Company, and asked him to send a drawing of the plans for the station as soon as it is decided on; then

we will cooperate with the railway company as to beautifying the grounds.

This committee respectfully asks permission to take steps toward securing the three acres of land adjoining Mount Vernon.

FRANCES C. MAXEY.

Chairman.

E. W. HARRISON.

C. B. GRAHAM.

**In Memory of Mrs. Abby Godwin Winder.**

Our flag flies at half mast announcing its message of sorrow.

A sad welcome to our meeting!

Death has claimed another of our members.

There is an empty seat at our board.

A telegram to the Regent from Commander Winder, U. S. N., brings the sad tidings of the death of his mother, Mrs. Abby Godwin Winder, Vice Regent of the Mount Vernon Association for New Hampshire, on the 8th of May.

A weight of grief lies hidden in these few words, for never was there a closer bond of affection than between this mother and son.

For us, also, there is grief, deep and sincere; for us, who for sixteen years have had Mrs. Winder with us, a loved companion, friend and co-worker. Her vacant seat is more eloquent than words. We listen in vain for her voice, ever raised to suggest or enforce some wise proposition.

Alas! We have but the memory of her large heart, her active mind; her wit and intelligence; her warm affections; her extensive culture; her complete unselfishness; her rare and noble character.

May her example and influence extend to us and move us to emulate the virtues that still live.

“None knew her but to love her,  
None named her but to praise.”

MRS. S. E. JOHNSON HUDSON.

**In Memory of Mrs. Eleanor Agnes Rogers Goldsborough.**

Like the odor of sweet lavender and rosemary and the fragrant mint and thyme is the memory of our dear friend and

associate, Mrs. Eleanor Agnes Goldsborough.

Of high courage, tender, loving and true, Mrs. Goldsborough was an ideal representative of a passing type of womanhood, of which the world is perhaps not worthy. In knowing her and bearing in mind that she was the great granddaughter of Martha Washington, one could not question the influence of generations of men and women of gentle birth, and high ideals and purposes and noble lives, nor question that the world was better for their living.

It was my privilege several years ago to spend some days at Ashby Manor, the home on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, that had been in the Goldsborough family for seven generations, and they were days of refreshment and content that have rested the mind to dwell upon in after years. A spirit of love and courtesy and old-time hospitality pervaded the household that was presided over by a Christian gentleman and gentlewoman. Those of us who knew Mrs. Goldsborough, when she first came to Mount Vernon, remember the eager enthusiasm with which she threw herself into her work. Then with what courage, indomitable will, and endurance of pain, she continued to come, after she became lame. Then, after her dear husband's death, her life seemed broken and strength and health failed. So, the last time she was with us it was only to say words of parting and to ask that her successor be appointed, and when she was assured that her request would be granted she was content and satisfied. Her work was done and when she left us there was a look on her face as though she had seen the vision beautiful that transcended the things of time.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

Hon. C. A. Swanson, Governor of Virginia, named as members of the Board of Visitors to Mount Vernon, to serve from April 11, 1906, the following gentlemen:

Judge B. T. W. Duke, Charlottesville, Va.

L. R. Page, Richmond, Va.

A. L. Warthen, Front Royal, Va.

W. T. Lewis, Berryville, Va.

Charles T. Marshall, Alexandria, Va.

These gentlemen, with the Governor, were invited to visit Mount Vernon on Tuesday, the 15th of May.

The Ladies of Council greatly regretted the absence of Governor Swanson, whom a previous engagement prevented from visiting Mount Vernon. The following gentlemen were present and represented the Board of Visitors:

Judge B. T. W. Duke, of Charlottesville, Va.

Mr. L. R. Page, of Richmond, Va.

Mr. Charles T. Marshall, of Alexandria, Va.

Mr. W. T. Lewis, of Berryville, Va.

The visiting gentlemen were received by the Regent and Vice Regents and afterward taken to the dining room for a lunch, after which they visited the tomb and grounds. On their return to the Superintendent's office they expressed great gratification with the measures taken to preserve the buildings and grounds, commending the heating and water-supply apparatus and drainage system in high terms. After their departure by second boat Council was called in session.

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## LIST OF COMMITTEES.

### FINANCE.

Mrs. Ball, chairman; Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Rathbone.

### MANSION.

Mrs. Flandrau, chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Rogers.

### FURNITURE.

Mrs. Conover, chairman; Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Graham, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Comegys.

### LIBRARY.

Miss Longfellow, chairman; Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Johnston.

### GROUNDS AND SHRUBS.

Mrs. Leiter, chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Denby.

### GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE.

Mrs. Barnes, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Leiter, Mrs. Wilder, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Maxey, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.



## KITCHEN GARDEN.

Mrs. Harrison, chairman; Miss Townsend, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Pringle.

## FARM.

Mrs. Hearst, chairman; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Rogers.

## TOMB.

Mrs. Walker, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Rogers.

## RELICS.

Mrs. Richardson, chairman; Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Rogers.

## RECORD.

Miss Comegys, chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Ward.

## BY-LAWS.

Mrs. Richardson, chairman; Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Manderson.

## INDEX.

Mrs. Flandrau, chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Richardson.

## PARLIAMENTARY RULES.

Mrs. Sweat, chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Denby.

## PRESS.

Mrs. Wilder, chairman; Miss Longfellow, Mrs. Webb, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Harrison.

## GUIDE BOOK.

Mrs. Rathbone, chairman; Mrs. Webb, Miss Longfellow.

## POSTAL CARD.

Miss Townsend, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Graham.

## INVESTIGATION OF WASHINGTON RELICS.

Mrs. Rathbone, chairman; Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Harrison.

## CONDENSED REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Your committee would respectfully report a faithful examination of the Regent's financial statement, and of bills and vouchers for the past year, and we find them clear and correct.

Your committee has also compared the reports of the Treasurer and of the Superintendent, including the accounts of the Purser and of the Gardener, and reports them entirely correct and satisfactory.

Total receipts for year ending April 30, 1906.....\$39,794.72  
 Total expenditures, year ending April 30, 1906..... 34,614.23  
 Net balance in bank, May, 1906.....\$ 5,180.49

Respectfully submitted,

EMMA R. BALL, Chairman.

LETITIA H. WALKER.

MARGARET J. M. SWEAT.

JENNIE M. WARD.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

There is very little to add to these reports.

The Ivory paper Knife and Shoe horn sent through the Vice Regent of the Dist. of Columbia, Mrs. Barnes, were purchased by Council, as they were offered on reasonable terms and were fully authenticated by the great grand daughter of Mrs. Washington, Mrs. Commodore Kennon of Georgetown, D. C. A new committee of the "Investigation of Washington Relics" was formed, to which all relics offered for sale, gift or loan should be referred.

Thus ends the history of the year's work of the Association and of the present condition of estate.

This beautiful Mount is part of the land grant of 5,000 acres to John Washington and Nicholas Spencer, made in 1674. Twenty-five hundred of these acres descended to Lawrence Washington, who built a residence upon it in 1743 and named it Mt. Vernon. At his death, 1752, he left it to his half brother, George Washington. After the death of Martha Washington, his widow, it passed successively to Bushrod Washington, John Augustine Washington and John A. Jr., who sold to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association 200 acres, including mansion, tomb and wharf and adjacent buildings and grounds.

This it is the aim of the Association to preserve. The number of visitors this year has exceeded 100,000. The road to the wharf has been relaid where washed out. The lawns improved by new treatment and the whole place is in such excellent condition, that one could hardly believe that so many feet have trod the soil around the tomb and over the lawns.

JENNIE M. WARD,

Secretary and Vice Regent for Kansas

## COMPLETE LIST OF ALL OFFICERS OF MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION.

Founder and First Regent 1853-1873,  
Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, South Carolina,  
Resigned 1873, Died 1874.

### VICE REGENTS APPOINTED 1858.

1. Mrs. Anna Cora Ogden Ritchie, resigned 1866.....Virginia
2. Mrs. Alice H. Dickinson, resigned 1859.....North Carolina
3. Mrs. Philoclea Edgeworth Eve, died 1889.....Georgia
4. Mrs. Octavia Walton Le Vert, died 1866.....Alabama
5. Mrs. Catherine A. McWillie, died 1873.....Mississippi
6. Mrs. Margaretta S. Morse, resigned 1873; died 1895, Louisiana
7. Mrs. Mary Rutledge Fogg, died——.....Tennessee
8. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Walton, resigned 1860.....Missouri
9. Miss Mary Morris Hamilton, died 1876.....New York
- 10 Mrs. Louisa Ingersoll Greenough, resigned 1865.....  
..... Massachusetts
11. Mrs. Abba Isabella Little, resigned 1863.....Maine
12. Mrs. Catherine Willis Murat, died 1867.....Florida
13. Mrs. Mary Boott Goodrich, resigned 1861 .... Connecticut
14. Miss Phebe Ann Ogden, died 1867.....New Jersey
15. Mrs. Alice Key Pendleton, resigned 1863; died 1885....Ohio
16. Mrs. Abby Wheaton Chace, died 1892.....Rhode Island
17. Mrs. Jane Maria Van Antwerp, died——.....Iowa
18. Mrs. Margaret Ann Comegys, died 1888.....Delaware
19. Mrs. Hannah Blake Farnsworth, died 1879.....Michigan
20. Mrs. Sarah King Hale, resigned 1861.....New Hampshire
21. Mrs. Martha Mitchell, died 1902.....Wisconsin
22. Mrs. Rosa Vertner Johnson, died——.....Kentucky

### 1859.

23. Mrs. Elizabeth Willard Barry, died 1884.....Illinois
24. Mrs. Sarah J. Sibley, died 1869.....Minnesota
25. Mrs. Mary Pepperell Jarvis Cutts, resigned 1878.....Vermont
26. Miss Lily Lytle Macalester, died 1891.....Pennsylvania
27. Mrs. Magdalen G. Blanding, resigned 1883.....California
28. Mrs. Harriet V. Fitch, died 1880.....Indiana
29. Mrs. Sarah H. Johnson, died 1866.....Arkansas
30. Mrs. Anne Lucas Hunt, died 1878.....Missouri
31. Mrs. Letitia Harper Walker.....North Carolina

### 1860.

32. Mrs. Mary Chestnut, died 1861.....South Carolina

## 1866.

- 33. Mrs. Margaret J. M. Sweat.....Maine
- 34. Miss Emily L. Harper, died 1891.....Maryland
- 35. Mrs. Lucy H. Pickens, died August 1899.....South Carolina
- 36. Mrs. M. E. Hickman, resigned 1867.....Nevada
- 37. Mrs. M. A. Stearns, resigned 1872.....New Hampshire
- 38. Mrs. Emily R. M. Hewson, resigned 1866.....Ohio
- 39. Miss Ella Hutchins, resigned 1866.....Texas

## 1867.

- 40. Mrs. Janet M. C. Riggs, resigned 1868...District of Columbia
- 41. Mrs. Maria Brooks, resigned 1876.....New York
- 42. Mrs. Matilda W. Emory, resigned 1873...District of Columbia
- 43. Mrs. Nancy Wade Halsted, died 1891.....New Jersey

## 1868.

- 44. Mrs. Nannie C. Yulee, died 1884.....Florida

## 1870.

- 45. Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson.....Connecticut
- 46. Mrs. Betsey C. Mason, died 1873.....Virginia
- 47. Mrs. A. P. Dillon, resigned 1874; died 1898.....Iowa
- 48. Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, died 1898.....West Virginia

## 1872.

- 49. Mrs. William Balfour, resigned 1875.....Mississippi
- 50. Mrs. Mary T. Barnes.....District of Columbia
- 51. Mrs. David Urquhart, resigned 1876.....Louisiana
- 52. Miss Mary E. Maverick, resigned 1873.....Texas
- 53. Mrs. C. L. Scott, resigned 1877.....Arkansas

This was the last appointment of Miss Cunningham, First Regent

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MRS. LILY M. BERGHMAN.

Second Regent, 1874-1891.

Died 1891.

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Vice Regents Appointed 1874.

- 54. Mrs. Emma Reed Ball.....Virginia
- 55. Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, died 1883.....Tennessee

## 1875.

- 56. Mrs. Lily L. Broadwell, died 1890.....Ohio
- 57. Mrs. John P. Jones .....Nevada

## 1876.

- 58. Mrs. Jennie Meeker Ward .....Kansas
- 59. Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend.....New York

## 1878.

- 60. Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, resigned 1880.....Vermont

1879.

61. Miss Alice Longfellow.....Massachusetts

62. Mrs. Robert Campbell, died 1882.....Missouri

1880.

63. Mrs. Ida A. Richardson .....Louisiana

1882.

64. Mrs. Ella S. Herbert, died 1884.....Alabama

1885.

65. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Adams Rathbone.....Michigan

66. Mrs. Mary T. Leiter.....Illinois

67. Mrs. Janet De Kay King, died 1896.....Vermont

68. Mrs. Eliza Woodward, died 1897.....Kentucky

1888.

69. Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys.....Delaware

70. Miss Fanny Gilchrist Baker, died 1901.....Florida

1889.

71. Mrs. Alice Hill .....Colorado

72. Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau.....Minnesota

73. Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst .....California

1890.

74. Mrs. A. R. Winder, died 1906.....New Hampshire

1891

75. Mrs. Georgia Page Wilder .....Georgia

This was the last nomination of Mrs. Lily Macalester Laugh-  
ton, second Regent (Madame Berghman).

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### MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND.

Third Regent.

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### Vice Regents Appointed 1893.

76. Mrs. George R. Goldsborough, resigned 1904, died 1906

.....Maryland

77. Mrs. J. Dundas Lippincott, died 1894.....Pennsylvania

78. Mrs. Mary Lloyd Pendleton, resigned 1897.....Ohio

79. Mrs. Philip Schuyler, resigned 1893.....New York

80. Mrs. Christine Blair Graham.....Missouri

81. Mrs. Francis S. Conover.....New Jersey

82. Mrs. Mary Polk Yeatman Webb .....Tennessee

1894.

83. Miss Leila Herbert, died 1897.....Alabama

1895.

84. Mrs. Robert H. Clarkson, resigned 1900; died 1902..Nebraska

85. Mrs. William Ames, died 1904.....Rhode Island  
 86. Miss Amy Townsend .....New York  
 1896.  
 87. Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison .....Pennsylvania  
 88. Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey .....Texas  
 1898.  
 89. Mrs. James E. Campbell, resigned 1902.....Ohio  
 1900.  
 90. Mrs. R. D. Johnston.....Alabama  
 91. Mrs. C. F. Manderson.....Nebraska  
 92. Mrs. E. Van Rensselaer.....West Virginia  
 1901.  
 93. Mrs. J. J. Pringle.....South Carolina  
 94. Mrs. Wm. F. Barret.....Kentucky  
 95. Mrs. Chas. Denby .....Indiana  
 1905.  
 96. Mrs. Fannie J. D. Rogers.....Maryland









**1907.**

*Annual Report*

*of the*

*Mount Vernon Ladies' Association  
of the Union*

ANNUAL COUNCIL

HELD AT

MOUNT VERNON-ON-THE-POTOMAC,  
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA,

MAY 16 TO 24, 1907.



**OFFICERS**  
**OF THE**  
**MOUNT VERNON LADIES ASSOCIATION**  
**OF THE UNION.**

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**REGENT.**

**MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND,**  
Winter address, 131 East 71st Street, New York City.  
Summer, Box 647 Southampton, Long Island.

**VICE REGENTS.**

**MRS. LETITIA H. WALKER,** North Carolina.  
**MRS. MARGARET J. M. SWEAT,** Maine.  
**MRS. S. E. JOHNSON HUDSON,** Connecticut.  
**MRS. MARY T. BARNES,** Washington, D. C.  
**MRS. EMMA R. BALL,** Virginia.  
**MRS. JENNIE M. WARD,** Kansas.  
**MISS ALICE M. LONGFELLOW,** Massachusetts.  
**MRS. IDA A. RICHARDSON,** Louisiana.  
**MRS. ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,** Michigan.  
**MRS. MARY T. LEITER,** Illinois.  
**MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,** Delaware.  
**MRS. ALICE HILL,** Colorado.  
**MRS. REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,** Minnesota.  
**MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST,** California.  
**MRS. J. J. WILDER,** Georgia.  
**MRS. CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM,** Missouri.  
**MRS. FRANCIS S. CONOVER,** New Jersey.  
**MRS. THOMAS SHAPARD WEBB,** Tennessee.  
**MISS AMY TOWNSEND,** New York.  
**MRS. CHARLES C. HARRISON,** Pennsylvania.  
**MRS. THOMAS S. MAXEY,** Texas.  
**MRS. R. D. JOHNSON,** Alabama.  
**MRS. CHARLES F. MANDERSON,** Nebraska.

MRS. EUGENE VAN RENSSELAER, West Virginia.

MRS. JOHN JULIUS PRINGLE, South Carolina.

MRS. WILLIAM BARRET, Kentucky.

MRS. HENRY W. ROGERS, Maryland.

MRS. LEWIS W. IRWIN, Ohio.

MRS. FRANCES JONES RICKS, Mississippi.

MRS. MARY F. FAILING, Oregon.

MRS. ELIZA L. LEARY, Washington.

MRS. J. CARTER BROWN, Rhode Island.

#### RECORDING SECRETARY.

MRS. JENNIE MEEKER WARD, Ottawa, Kansas.

#### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

MRS. ELIZABETH PRINGLE, "Chicora Wood," Plantersville,  
Georgetown County, South Carolina.

#### TREASURER.

MR. E. FRANCIS RIGGS, Washington, D. C.

#### RESIDENT SUPERINTENDENT.

MR. HARRISON H. DODGE, Mount Vernon-on-the-Potomac,  
Virginia.

MR. JAMES YOUNG, Mount Vernon-on-the-Potomac, Virginia.

#### RESIDENT ENGINEER.

MR. JAMES R. ARCHER, Mount Vernon-on-the-Potomac, Virginia

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER, U. S. Supreme Court, Washington,  
D. C.

MR. LEWIS CASS LEDYARD, 2 East 87th Street, New York,  
N. Y.

1907.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNION

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The Board of Regents of the Association met in annual Council on Thursday, May 16. Eighteen ladies in all being present.

LADIES PRESENT.

Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend, Regent, New York,  
Mrs. S. E. Johnson Hudson, Vice Regent, Connecticut.  
Mrs. Emma R. Ball, Vice Regent, Virginia.  
Mrs. Jennie M. Ward, Vice Regent, Kansas.  
Mrs. Ida S. Richardson, Vice Regent, Louisiana.  
Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau, Vice Regent, Minnesota.  
Mrs. Christine B. Graham, Vice Regent, Missouri.  
Mrs. Sarah P. Van Rensselaer, Vice Regent, West Virginia.  
Mrs. Francis S. Conover, Vice Regent, New Jersey.  
Miss Amy Townsend, Vice Regent, New York.  
Mrs. Charles C. Harrison, Vice Regent, Pennsylvania.  
Mrs. R. D. Johnston, Vice Regent, Alabama.  
Mrs. Charles F. Manderson, Vice Regent, Nebraska.  
Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys, Vice Regent, Delaware.  
Mrs. J. J. Wilder, Vice Regent, Georgia.  
Mrs. J. J. Pringle, Vice Regent, South Carolina.  
Mrs. Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone, Vice Regent, Michigan.  
Mrs. W. F. Barret, Vice Regent, Kentucky.

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REGENTS ANNUAL REPORT.

Dear Ladies:

Again we meet in this beloved home of Washington, dearer to us as the years go by. As we arrive here again, all around us breathes of the beauty of flowers and trees and vines.

Several of our members have been obliged by Grippe to remain at home. Mrs. Webb and our dear Miss Longfellow, Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Hearst and Mrs. Hill are in Europe. Mrs. Leiter, in her deep grief, could not be with us.

Alas! one of our circle, dear Mrs. Denby, has been taken to the Paradise above, where all happiness surrounds her. Her character was beautiful, and her intimate friend, Mrs. Hudson will tell us of her loving nature.

Mount Vernon is in its greatest beauty; one week later in May has given us a charming, tempting climate.

As our usual Council has always met on the second Thursday, which happened to be on the date of the Jamestown celebration, I thought best to postpone our Council till the following week, and this gave me an opportunity of forming a delegation to represent Mount Vernon, as surely no State, but Virginia, is more closely identified with our beloved Washington, both by birth-right and by the glory of founding our country, ruling our government as President with justice and dignity, with a renown acknowledged by every nation of the globe.

The great work of this year has been the strengthening of the Mansion, from cellar to roof. The expense has been large, but for the purpose of making it a perfect structure, as was the order of last Council, no detail has been neglected. All this work was accomplished and so arranged that neither Mansion nor grounds were closed to visitors. All has gone well upon the estate through the year. Owing to the high price of cows—\$70 a head—no new cows have been purchased; meantime we are using excellent, pure milk supplied from the herd of a neighboring farmer.

Our financial affairs, notwithstanding our large outlay, leave us a good margin. Obtaining this knowledge from our Treasurer, I felt that our circle of workers who have helped to restore this place (many of whom longed to visit the Jamestown Exposition, but did not feel justified in paying the always double or triple prices of this trip), I sent word to inform the seven delegates that their expenses would be paid by our Association. They responded most gratefully. I then appointed Mrs. Ball as chairman, she being a resident of Richmond, and she has spared no trouble to make it a great success for her co-Vice Regents.

The visitors of this year have been less in number than those of last year. There were many distinguished and interesting visitors, among those in May being His Highness the Maharajah Gaekwar Prince of Baroda, and his wife. In June we had visitors from the Society of the War of 1812, when a hickory tree was

planted by them on the lawn north of the Mansion. Later came a very large excursion of the Patriotic Order of the Sons of America. In August, although scarcely a day without rain, the remarkable number of eleven thousand (11,000) visitors was registered.

In November the Fraternity of the Phi Delta Theta brought a maple tree from the campus of the Miami University of Ohio. It is placed between the Tomb and the wharf.

In February floral tributes were brought from the Citizens Committee from Alexandria in honor of Washington's birthday; also from the Mexican Ambassador and from representatives of the Slavonic Society of Moscow.

The usual annual gift of two flags arrived from the MacFadden factories in time for the 22d.

On the 19th of April the Children of the American Revolution were here in force, and our Superintendent gave them permission to place a handsome wreath on Washington's sarcophagus.

I must not forget that on the 15th of August two boxes of cut flowers were sent from the Mount Vernon garden to our Founder's grave in South Carolina.

Our ever faithful friend, Mr. William F. Havermeyer of New York, presented us with an original map, drawn by Washington, of the Mount Vernon estate.

A copy of Burns' poems was sent us by Mrs. Carnegie, and from Mr. Johnson, of Alabama, an engraved sketch of Washington.

A gift of five volumes of "Letters to Washington" was presented through me to our Association by Miss J. Boudinot, to be placed in the bookcase of Washington. This valuable work was collaborated by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America.

The brass rubbings from the Washingtons' tombs in England were neatly framed and placed in the Library.

From Mrs. Herbert C. D. Pierce, of Washington, D. C., was received a quaint old music book entitled "Anthems to George Washington."

A water color drawing was sent by Dr. C. J. Peacock of London, England, of the Washington Cottage, at Brington, and a photograph of Sulgrave Manor.

Our generous friend, Mrs. Hearst sent, at the Christmas holi-



days, the sum of one hundred and ten dollars (\$110.00) to the servants at Mount Vernon.

The amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) given by Council to old Hammond, the late guard at the Tomb, was a great comfort to him in his last illness.

I must not close without telling you that a gentleman from Ottawa, Canada, asked for a bit of wood from a tree planted here by request of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (now King Edward the Seventh). He wished to incorporate it in a book case, commemorative of the Prince's visit in 1860, to be sent to the King.

I am glad to inform you that the Boat Company has resumed the selling of coupon tickets, including the Mount Vernon entrance fee, and thus we are relieved from the unsatisfactory method of collecting the fee at our wharf.

The health of our officers during the year has been good, notwithstanding intense heat, rain storms of three or four weeks' duration, and finally the visit of Grippe.

All is harmony and good will.

Among our employees, two of the men left, on account of bettering themselves by higher wages. Others, however, were found at once, and all is peace.

With the blessed word Peace I conclude my report, adding loving good wishes to our dear circle of Mount Vernon sisters, with the hope that our Heavenly Father may preserve and strengthen us in all good work.

JUSTINE V. R. TOWNSEND.

The following memorial was then read:

IN MEMORY OF MRS. MARTHA FITCH DENBY, VICE  
REGENT FOR INDIANA.

Let Mrs. Denby's last letter to me speak for her. After expressing her regret that illness prevented her attendance at Council she writes, "I feel that to attend Council is a sacred duty, nothing but a visitation of Providence could keep me away. I hope that in God's goodness I shall be permitted to meet with you all next May, and that none may be missing from the circle. I feel a softening of the heart for every human being connected

with the dear old place. Remember me, with love, to my dear colleagues."

This is the affectionate farewell from our dear Vice Regent for Indiana.

Mrs. Denby "in God's goodness" passed away on December 26th, 1906.

She was wont to say that the crowning honor and pride of her life was having succeeded her mother in the Mount Vernon Association. What was her enthusiastic love for Mount Vernon we all know.

A woman of warm heart and sympathy, gifted with unusual mental endowment and unfailing energy, she was well fitted for her life of broad association and activity, both in this country, where her husband—The Hon. Charles Denby filled a large space in public life, and also in China, when as Minister Plenipotentiary for the United States, Mr. Denby represented his country for twelve years and was Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

In all these prominent positions Mrs. Denby won the respect, admiration and love of all within her reach, particularly in China, where her influence was far-reaching.

From this brilliant existence Mrs. Denby came to us with her simple tastes, her retiring, unassuming manner, her patriotic devotion to her duties here, a true woman, unspoiled by success and happy, loving and beloved.

S. E. JOHNSON HUDSON,  
Vice Regent for Connecticut.

## STATE REPORTS.

### ALABAMA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Alabama reports visits made to schools, and the distribution of Mount Vernon literature. Mr. Charles A. Johnson, of Montgomery, Alabama, has presented to the Association a short historic sketch of Washington which was compiled and engraved by himself, and framed in solid old mahogany.

Respectfully submitted,

LIZZIE JOHNSTON,  
Vice Regent.

**CALIFORNIA STATE REPORT.**

No report.

**COLORADO STATE REPORT.**

No report.

**CONNECTICUT STATE REPORT.**

I must plead my usual excuse: absence from my country, as reason for so meagre a report of work done for Mount Vernon.

Beyond circulating reports little has been accomplished.

An attempt to plant Mount Vernon ivy at the public school in the village of Stratford was made.

In conjunction with Mrs. Denby, our late Vice Regent for Indiana, a carpet has been provided for the Superintendent's office.

Following request of council to continue the search for "Loring's Life of Washington" I have simply ascertained that this book is out of print. Should Council so order, there remains the advertising for copies of the work in "Publishers' Weekly," which I am assured would bring offers from dealers in old books throughout the country. The cost of each insertion of the advertisement would be thirty cents.

Mrs. Wm. E. Ver Planck, of Fishkill-on-Hudson, begs leave to supply to the Mount Vernon garden plants of the York and Lancaster rose. To those plants attach a certain interest in coming from the "Mount Gulian" estate, in whose mansion General Washington founded the order of the "Society of the Cincinnati.

At my villa on the Island of Capri, Italy, I gave a reception on the 22d of February, which was well attended by American and English residents. Views of Mount Vernon were distributed to the guests assembled under the folds of our flag. "To the Memory of Washington" was drank, standing and in silence.

S. E. JOHNSON HUDSON,

Vice Regent for Connecticut.

**DELAWARE STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Delaware has no report of work done in her State during the past year, but she is glad to have this opportunity to tell you of the interest which Delawareans have shown in the work of this Association. In response to a request

made by the Delaware Colonial Dames at their last annual meeting she promised them for their plantation of historical trees, a young oak from Mount Vernon. The Vice Regent had the honor of being one of the Committee appointed by the Regent to represent this Association at the Jamestown Island celebrations, on the eleventh and thirteenth of May.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,

Vice Regent.

#### GEORGIA STATE REPORT.

As Vice Regent for Georgia I take pleasure in presenting, for Mr. Charles Edgeworth Jones, of Augusta, Georgia, a marble bust of Washington, that was the property of his grandmother, Mrs. Philoclea E. Eve, the honored first Vice Regent for Georgia, and which Mr. Jones begs to present to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, with his cordial compliments.

Through the kindness of our beloved Regent I was one of the delegation to represent the Association at the ceremonies at Jamestown on the 11th instant, and will always feel grateful to have participated in that most interesting and solemn occasion.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,

Vice Regent.

#### KANSAS STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Kansas reports a growing interest in Mount Vernon and the Association throughout the State.

Requests for information about Mount Vernon are constantly being made by schools, clubs and libraries.

The annual gift of one dollar from the patriotic friend of Mount Vernon at Iola, Kansas, is the only money received and is held in the Kansas fund.

The oak seedlings sent last year to Ottawa are alive and doing well.

Reports have been distributed to historical societies and libraries and requests for files have been made which I could not supply.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIE M. WARD,

Vice Regent.

### KENTUCKY STATE REPORT.

I have to report a gift to Mount Vernon from Mr. Charles Hand Ball, of Philadelphia. It is a small lock of General Washington's hair, which was for some years loaned to the collection in Independence Hall, by the owner, Mr. J. H. Hobart, afterwards withdrawn and given to Mr. Ball. I have his letter, with the history of this relic, which he wishes to present to the Association.

I also wish to present, subject to approval of the committee on relics, a teaspoon made by Paul Revere. This is one of a set which has been in my family since its purchase from the famous patriot and silversmith. It has his mark and there is no doubt of its genuineness.

I also present to the Library Committee a book of maps, published a hundred years ago in connection with a life of Washington, showing the several operations of the American and British armies during the Revolution, and containing an interesting list of names of the subscribers to this work.

I am gratified by the deep interest shown in my State in the work of the Association, being constantly questioned in regard to it, and hearing from the many who visit Mount Vernon the most unstinted praise of the beautiful restoration of the home of Washington. I have also received several gifts for the Kentucky room, one being \$20.00 from the Sons of the American Revolution.

It was my good fortune to be one of the delegates to the ceremonies of the 11th and 13th of May at Jamestown Island, where by the request of our Regent we represented the Mount Vernon Association. Respectfully submitted,

MARGARETTA BARRET,  
Vice Regent.

### LOUISIANA STATE REPORT.

I have but little to report as I was uncertain whether I would be able to attend Council until the last moment.

I distributed to our libraries and newspapers the Mount Vernon reports of 1906. I have had bound the minutes of the Grand Councils up to date -3 volumes—and also one volume containing all the early papers, to be placed in the Library for reference.

Respectfully submitted,

IDA C. RICHARDSON,  
Vice Regent.

The bound volume of early papers contains:

Washington's Will.

Some of the Secret troubles of Washington, when Commander-in-Chief, read before Mount Vernon Society of Detroit, December 2, 1896, by Mrs. Thomas Clapp Pitkin.

Christianity: the key to the character and career of Washington. A discourse before the ladies of the Mount Vernon Association of the Union, at Pohick Church, May, 1886, by Philip Slaughter, D. D., Historian of the Diocese of Virginia.

The Maternal Ancestry and Nearest Kin of Washington. A monograph, Washington, 1885.

George Washington as an Inventor and Promoter of the Useful Arts. An address by J. M. Toner, M. D., 1891.

Rules of Civility. Copied by George Washington.

#### MARYLAND STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent reports the distribution of reports and memorials of Miss Cunningham to libraries and private individuals throughout the State. In all cases they have been acknowledged with interest. Mrs. Daniel B. Ridgely presents a pitcher portrait of Washington for the Maryland room.

Last June an effort was made to furnish ivy plants, for the ceremonies of "planting the ivy" during commencement week at the Woman's College. Through a misunderstanding the plants were not used and were afterwards sent to Ashby to be planted on the grave of our late Vice Regent, Mrs. George R. Goldsborough.

The Vice Regent has requested the Trustees of the Johns Hopkins University to plant a group of historic oaks from Mount Vernon among their shade trees.

Photographs of a private collection of Washington relics and miniatures have been secured from the owner, a descendant of Mrs. Washington, and if acceptable to the Relic Committee will be given to the Mount Vernon collection.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS.

Vice Regent.

#### MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Massachusetts reports with much regret that continued illness prevents her doing any active work for Mount Vernon at present.

As far as possible she endeavors to keep the interest in the work alive in her State and the reports are carefully distributed every year.

She takes pleasure in offering the Association an Heraldic painting of the Washington Coat-of-Arms, presented to Mount Vernon by Mrs. George R. Stuart of Everett, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE M. LONGFELLOW.

Vice Regent.

### MICHIGAN STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Michigan reports a generous contribution from the Detroit Mount Vernon Society of three hundred dollars (\$300.00). The interest is stimulated in the work of this society by the able officers who have had its management at heart from the organization of the Society in 1887. The President for the past year was Mrs. William J. Chittenden, a woman of splendid qualities, whose active work on Christian and patriotic lines endeared her to the community in which she lived. It was at her house that a brilliant entertainment was given on the 22d of February last. She delayed her departure for the South until after this event to which her influence and presence contributed great success. Mrs. Chittenden was called back to Detroit prematurely by the illness of a son and was herself taken so ill on the way that she could go no further than Chicago, where the end came of her beautiful life.

Mrs. Chittenden's successor is Mrs. Arthur Parker, who comes of old colonial lineage and for whom it can be claimed that she is a worthy descendant of her worthy ancestor who took part in the "Boston Tea Party."

In addition to the three hundred dollars contributed by the Detroit Mount Vernon Society, a check for fifty dollars was sent as a contribution to the Pohick Church restoration fund.

The Vice Regent is very grateful to our Regent that she was permitted to participate in the ceremonies at Jamestown, which were very impressive, and all who participated were made to feel that they were celebrating the birth of a free, Christian nation in a new world.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,

Vice Regent.

### MINNESOTA STATE REPORT.

The annual donation of ten dollars from the Society of Colonial Dames of America in Minnesota has been received.

Reports of last Council were distributed in my State; also a number of copies of the Historical sketch of Miss Cunningham, who inspired the women of the United States with the idea of the purchase and preservation of Mount Vernon.

Respectfully submitted,

REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,

Vice Regent.

### MISSOURI STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Missouri has given three framed photographs of the Mansion to public schools in St. Louis. Twenty-five dollars was received from the St. Louis Chapter of the D. A. R.; also fifty dollars for the Contingent Fund from Miss C. A. Graham.

The Vice Regent was privileged to take part in the beautiful ceremonies at Jamestown as a delegate from Mount Vernon, and feels that it would be impossible for her to express her full appreciation of the occasion.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM.

Vice Regent.

### NEBRASKA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Nebraska submits the following report for the year ending May 15th, 1907:

Illness in her family and absence caused thereby has prevented her from giving active attention to duties in connection with Mount Vernon, and prevented attending the annual meeting held in May, 1906.

Many of the citizens and particularly the women of Nebraska feel an interest in the preservation of Mount Vernon, and when the facts are known highly approve the course pursued by the Regents, who are exercising care and control over the estates of George Washington.

There has been no effort made to collect money for the improvement of the property, but a voluntary contribution of twenty-five dollars was made by Mrs. Joslyn of Omaha, an apprecia-



tive visitor who was impressed by what has been done. This amount has been turned over to the Regent, and the Vice Regent asks that she recognize the same by acknowledgement to Mrs. Joslyn, and that the amount be placed in the contingent fund for Nebraska, with fifty dollars heretofore collected.

Respectfully submitted,

REBEKAH S. MANDERSON.

Vice Regent.

#### NEW JERSEY STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for New Jersey has very little to report from her State this year, as she has not asked for any contributions. She has received ten dollars from the Boudinot Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Elizabeth, and three dollars from other friends of Mount Vernon.

She has distributed copies of reports to the New Jersey Historical Society and to other persons interested in Mount Vernon, and feels sure that New Jersey will always respond to any call made upon her in the interests of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN F. CONOVER,

Vice Regent.

#### NEW YORK STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for New York being absent in Spain last year wishes added to this year's report the valuable and interesting books given by a friend to Mt. Vernon "Sentimental and Masonic Magazine" from July 1792 to December, 1794, inclusive, five volumes, George Washington's copy, with his autograph on the title page. This set was presented to General Washington by the proprietor, John Jones; and Stephen's Philadelphia Directory for 1796, to the President of the United States.

The Vice Regent takes pleasure in presenting from a generous friend an old china Cincinnati plate, a piece from the service presented to Washington by the French officers at the time of his election as first President of the Order of the Cincinnati. It is the same set that passed down through the Curtis family to the family of General Robert E. Lee, some pieces of which were left at Arlington.

I had the pleasure to be present as one of the Vice Regents

of the Committee appointed by the Regent to represent the Mount Vernon Association at the Jamestown Island celebration.

Respectfully submitted,

AMY TOWNSEND,

Vice Regent.

#### NORTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.

No report.

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPORT.

During the past year the Vice Regent for Pennsylvania has distributed a number of the memorials to Miss Cunningham to friends whom she regrets to say seem to have a lamentable lack of knowledge as to the purchase of Mount Vernon in 1858 by the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association.

It has been suggested to the chairman of the Prize Essay Committee that the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames give Mount Vernon-on-the Potomac as the colonial subject to be competed for by the children of the public schools in Pennsylvania.

Early in the winter a letter was received from England, written by Miss E. P. Lewis, of Philadelphia, telling of an old mirror owned by the descendants of Admiral Thomas Ball Sullivan, C. B., who captured it from the White House when the city of Washington was sacked by the British in 1814. The accompanying letters will give the history of this interesting relic and the willingness of the heirs to return it.

The Washington bed spread ordered by Council to be mended is again at Mount Vernon, repaired and cleaned.

The Vice Regent of Pennsylvania takes pleasure in presenting a quaint wrought iron iron-stand with the head of Washington worked into it.

Respectfully submitted,

ELLEN W. HARRISON,

Vice Regent.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for South Carolina has during the past year endeavored to spread a more accurate understanding of the sacred work at Mount Vernon and to arouse in the children of the public schools of the State a patriotic enthusiasm for the home of the Greatest American.

The Vice Regent, through the kind courtesy of the Regent had the great pleasure and privilege of visiting Jamestown and taking part in the beautiful services at the presentation of the restored church of the first settlers. It was a scene to thrill the coldest heart and will always be a proud memory.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH W. A. PRINGLE,

Vice Regent.

#### TENNESSEE STATE REPORT.

No report.

#### TEXAS STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Texas regrets that she cannot be present at this Council and that she has done so little for Mount Vernon during the past year.

The annual reports of the Association have been distributed throughout the State.

The Colonial Dames in Texas have sent a contribution of \$25.00, and Miss White's School, of Austin, \$5.00. The money will be used for building the wall.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES C. MAXEY,

Vice Regent.

#### VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Virginia has received twenty-five dollars from the Old Dominion Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to be used in furnishing dimity hangings for General Washington's bed and window curtains.

I have received as a loan one of Mrs. Washington's dining room chairs, given to Dr. Thomas Miller of Washington, D. C., by his old friend and patient, Mrs. Tobias Lear, widow of Washington's private secretary, and niece of Mrs. Washington. This chair is to be placed in General Washington's bed room, and is loaned by Dr. Miller's daughters, Mrs. Sterling Maclay, Mrs. Arthur Fendall, and Miss Virginia Miller, of Washington, D. C.

I have received from Mrs. Lyster, of Michigan, a beautifully netted fringe to be sewed upon the ancient bed spread presented

last year by Mrs. Lyster, to be placed upon General Washington's bed.

I feel myself most highly honored in being appointed by the Regent chairman of the Delegation of Twelve Vice Regents to attend the celebrations at Jamestown Island.

I have submitted my report as chairman of this committee, but I here desire to record that in Virginia great honor was accorded to the Vice Regents from Mount Vernon. Governor and Mrs. Swanson received them officially and entertained them royally. The National Society of Colonial Dames, also the Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Virginia, and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, each gave them welcome and place of honor, and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association took its proper place in this great anniversary celebration.

Respectfully submitted,

EMMA R. BALL,  
Vice Regent.

#### WEST VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for West Virginia desires to express her great pleasure in being of the delegation to represent Mount Vernon at Jamestown Island, May 13th, where the courtesy of the A. P. V. A. and of the National Society of Colonial Dames, and of the Virginians whom we met, was beyond all expression.

The reports and some copies of the life of Miss Cunningham have been distributed.

Respectfully submitted,

SARAH P. VAN RENSSELAER,  
Vice Regent.

Council adjourned for luncheon.

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#### REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

Following the reading of the State reports the Superintendent, Mr. Dodge, read his annual report, as follows:

April 30, 1907.

To the Regent and Vice Regents,  
of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Ladies:

My report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1907, which I have now the honor of presenting, is, in many respects, not so

gratifying as for the previous year. The total number of visitors, 92,501, was 8,556 short, which falling off may have been due, in great measure, to two causes, viz.—the new interstate commerce law which greatly affected passenger traffic by rail; and the prospect of the Jamestown Exposition, causing visitors to delay their pilgrimage to Mount Vernon until this year. No doubt the travel this summer will more than compensate for the deficit.

### MANSION REPAIRS.

The most important matter to have attention was, of course, the strengthening of this building to withstand the strain of the increasing numbers of visitors. Immediately after Council adjourned I arranged with Mr. Bernard R. Green, the well known engineer, and Mr. F. W. Pilling, architect and builder, to make a thorough inspection of the Mansion with the view of determining on a plan of procedure. These experts made a careful search for defects, as far as they were able, from what was in sight, and as a result of their preliminary examination they reported that while it might be wise to stiffen the framework by providing extra supports there was nothing they could then see to indicate the immediate necessity for such precaution. It was decided, however, to relieve certain pressures by inserting several steel girders where most needed and where, fortunately they could be entirely hidden from view. This has all been satisfactorily accomplished, as it will be my pleasure to point out when you make your regular inspection.

Space in this report does not admit of a detailed description of all that was done to add to the strength and durability of the Mansion.

In the course of the work we made careful notes and measurements of every timber and feature of original construction when revealed.

From these notes I drew a plan to scale and have made a skeleton model to enable me to better explain the character of the original Mount Vernon villa built in 1743 by Lawrence Washington; the additions made (1785) by George Washington, and the repairs accomplished by your Association since. It should prove very useful in any future work where the position and bearing of important original timbers enter into the calculation.

The accomplishment of the most important structural repairs

was followed by essential work on ceilings, walls and wood trimmings.

The ancient paneling was much cracked from shrinkage and unequal settlement years ago; the stucco ornamentation of the Dining Room, Parlor and Banquet Hall had become very dry and, in parts, loose.

A general and thorough overhauling of all the lower rooms (except the library) has restored the freshness and attractive effects of original tints.

The paper for covering the walls above the main stairway I had to order especially, and in doing so endeavored to reproduce the exact colors, as well as pattern, of what Washington saw here. The "blocks" for this paper, you will remember, we have copyrighted. For the hall and stairway near Washington's room we had a supply of the unique paper such as was used there last.

To give this covering a firmer contact with the plaster, at the same time strengthening the plaster to resist hard usage, cotton was laid on first as a base for the paper.

It may be wondered how we managed, while the repairs were in progress, to give visitors a chance to inspect the house. As far as possible I avoided closing more than one room at a time and not once did I hear a complaint. On the contrary there were many commendations for the effort of the Association to preserve Washington's home.

### MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS.

Besides the special and very absorbing work in the Mansion, the following will give an idea of what repairs were required in other directions:

Defective shingles (indicated by slight leaks in some of the buildings) were replaced.

Storm damage to silo roof was corrected.

The lavatory tank was strengthened and a new bath tub found necessary. This room was painted.

The cellar of one of the cabins was concreted and plaster walls patched.

Staging of greenhouses had to be rebuilt and soil renewed as usual.

The kitchen cement floor was resurfaced and the walls painted.

Calcimine was applied in the lower rooms of Quarters, the watch room, the gate house, the office, the upper halls of the Mansion and the Spinning House.

Board fences, rail fences and wire fences were repaired.

The interior of the rose house was painted, also the roofs of the ice house, the palm house and some of the sheds.

Eave gutters and down spouts received their share of attention.

Whitewashing of fences, walls, stables, chicken house, cabins, etc., was not overlooked.

Wire screens for doors and windows were inspected and repaired.

A non-freezing pump was provided for the kitchen well, and a new footvalve was attached to the suction pipe in cistern.

The sentry box at Tomb was repaired, painted and provided with a small stove.

Hotbed sash was reglazed and strengthened.

Farm implements were protected from rust.

The library porch, the summer house, steps of smoke house and other buildings needed correction.

Some veneering of furniture in the Mansion was replaced, articles cleaned, and door locks overhauled.

A slight change in the boiler connection with the new range was necessary, and defect in kitchen drain corrected.

Farming operations last season were attended by most discouraging conditions. The various crops were planted satisfactorily but the unusual prevalence of rain rendered proper cultivation out of the question.

The rank growth of weeds choked everything; potatoes rotted in the ground; oats were ruined by rust, and for want of sun hay could not be cured.

Eighteen acres of corn yielded but 456 bushels. The oats were not worth threshing so were fed in sheaf; twelve acres of pea hay cured out only half of what it should. We flailed considerable rye and saved the straw for bedding. From six acres of ensilage corn we packed our silo two thirds full. Two small patches of teosinte were grown experimentally and came in use when pastures were exhausted. In the autumn I made two sowings of rye,

the first showed an indifferent start because of sour soil; the second did much better. This spring we are grazing the rye.

Favorable opportunities during the winter were taken advantage of by plowing fields intended for cultivation this year.

The need of lime to sweeten the soil after its drenching last summer is very great. Council appropriated liberally for lime but we could not ship it here because terminal facilities (Electric Railway) for handling it were lacking. There is prospect of a better chance in the near future.

The hard-yard compost has been applied to land where corn will be planted, also to the gardens.

Our venture in cow peas as an improver of soil convinces me we are wise in continuing it. Besides the beneficial effect of the roots which serve to convey nitrogen to the seed-bed, the hay, when properly cured, is exceedingly nutritious and greatly relished by stock. When possible to convert into hay (as happened here to part of our crop last summer, owing to rains) it makes excellent pasture.

### LIVE STOCK.

The six horses and two mules were actively employed in much varied draft work. Two of the horses are handicapped by age and infirmities incident to service.

Our cows, upon rigid test, we found not up to the standard and four of them were disposed of. We now have three cows, a heifer and bull.

The exchange of male deer was accomplished but the one we received died during the autumn. It is advisable to make another effort to improve the herd, and to this end it would be well to change a temporary range in the nearby woods and allow the long used park to recuperate by partial cultivation.

We have an increase of but four Shropshire lambs this spring. By next autumn we should enlarge our flock.

### GARDENS AND GROUNDS.

The unusual rainfall last summer certainly kept all vegetation fresh and green, while it likewise hindered the blooming of flowers and maturing of edible plants. The celery was completely drowned, corn and tomatoes did not ripen, potatoes rotted in the ground, and weeds baffled our best efforts to subdue them. Al-



together the conditions were most discouraging. We managed to can a quantity of peas, beans, tomatoes, etc., for winter use. Before frost came the fig bushes were well protected, and later on, at the proper time, grape vines, shrubbery and trees were pruned.

A number of young persimmon trees were transplanted to spaces in the deer park, and seven good sized cedars were placed as a hedge to screen the house occupied by the Vickers family.

The six arbor vitae ordered, by the Vice Regent for New York, from nurseries at Augusta, Ga., arrived dead, owing to delay in transit.

Shortly after last Council the Society of the War of 1812 sent a special delegation to plant a hickory tree at Mount Vernon. The Regent having given her consent the planting took place on the lawn northeast from the Mansion.

The little beech planted by the Phi Alpha Chapter of the Chi Omega Fraternity (in 1905) did not survive. We planted another in its stead.

Another secret society, "Phi Delta Theta", planted a maple last Thanksgiving Day, permission having been granted by the Regent.

To better mark and record all the plantings having special significance I affixed to each an aluminum disc bearing proper number, a corresponding list of same being filed in the office.

In front of the Tomb the soil was enriched and ivy planted, training it to cover (eventually) the brickwork. To protect this a stout iron guard rail was put up. Where visitors had worn away the turf new sod was laid.

The difficulty, heretofore, of maintaining proper definition of the turf edging west of the Mansion has been overcome by constructing a brick curb in design conforming to colonial usage. These bricks are imbedded in Portland cement concrete and protected against frost action by suitable drainage. In placing these curbs I was careful to follow original border lines as indicated by the formation of the old road bed.

An improvement of the road surface of the fore court has been achieved by a layer of fine river-washed gravel, this being firmly packed by a heavy roller. The road and walk leading around north of the Quarters we graded and surfaced with cinders.

The tarring of cobblestone gutters was postponed until I could prove the efficacy of another preparation for preventing weed growth. So far my experiments with "Herbicide" have not been entirely satisfactory.

The care of the lawns keep our men busy from early spring until late autumn, rolling, trimming, raking, edging, etc. Where the encroachments of Bermuda grass disfigure the turf I have continued, with the encouraging results, to sow the bare space with perennial rye grass, thus producing a green effect, which hides the blemishes for the time being. The leaves gathered from the grounds and nearby woods during the winter are saved for bedding of stock, for compost and for leafmold.

### TUNNELS.

The completion of the two drainage tunnels was accomplished early last summer by packing them with washed gravel, thus making them permanently secure in their efficiency. There has been no diminution in the streams flowing from these tunnels, but rather an increase, showing that more of the subterranean springs have found their way to these free exits.

### STORM DRAINS.

In place of the rugged ravine extending through the deer park to the river we can show you now an excellent conduit of large Terra Cotta pipes laid, with conveniently located traps, so as to carry off not only the torrential surface water, but also several springs we have blind ditched into it. The value of this work, was demonstrated by the long wet spell of last season which afforded many opportunities to prove its efficiency. Thus we have prevented further undermining of the hillside and the probable starting of another landslide.

### TANKS.

At last Council I pointed out the necessity of renewing the elevated tanks located in the apex of the palm house. The old ones were worn out and leaking badly. The estimates on which I based my request for an appropriation were later found to be inadequate, and in order to secure first class material and workmanship we had to pay considerably more.

To meet this requirement, which was imperative, I used the sum appropriated for an improvement to our pumping system.

These two tanks are constructed of heavy galvanized iron, braced and riveted in iron frames. They have a capacity of about 2,500 gallons each, and are connected of course with our water mains.

#### WHARF.

Protection of the wharf cribbing called for the driving of new oak piles, as fenders, in place of those no longer serviceable. This was attended to.

The boat was withdrawn November 1st, and sent to Baltimore for thorough repairs, including new boilers. Daily trips were resumed on March 11th.

So unsatisfactory was it to visitors brought by boat—the delay incident to purchasing entrance tickets after reaching our wharf—the Boat Company was finally prevailed upon to resume its former system of selling at Washington coupon tickets including the entrance fee to Mount Vernon. Our lawyer, Mr. Darlington, drew up a supplementary agreement to cover this change from the terms of the contract of 1905.

This has been signed and a new bond given by the Boat Company.

#### COAL.

Because of the failure of the Electric Railway Company to haul our coal early last summer, as promised, we lost the advantage of lowest prices.

Being finally forced to the alternative of shipping by river it was landed on our shore from scows, but not until October.

We experimented with soft coal for our hot water system and found it entirely satisfactory. The prices paid last year were as follows:

White Ash Anthracite, egg size...\$6.10 per ton.

White Ash Anthracite, stove size, \$6.75 per ton.

Bituminous (soft coal) \$3.40 and \$3.75 per ton.

#### TOMB.

The usual occasions for decorating the Tomb were appropriately observed.

In addition to evergreens and flowers placed by us the following deserve mention:

On May 30, 1906, a large floral wreath from the White House.

July 4th, floral tributes from the Patriotic Order of Sons of America.

December 14th, Masons from the lodges of Alexandria and Fredericksburg brought wreaths.

February 22, 1907, a large wreath of orchids and other costly flowers from the Mexican Ambassador; a handsome set-piece was brought by the Mayor and committee of citizens of Alexandria; an evergreen wreath by a representative of the Slavonic Society of Moscow.

On April 19, 1907, Children of the American Revolution deposited in the Tomb a beautiful wreath.

Among the large number of visitors I have noticed that foreigners show the greatest reverence when at Washington's Tomb. This was particularly noticeable when (last summer) His Highness the Maharajah Gaekwar, Prince of Baroda, and his wife the Maharana, made their pilgrimage.

On August 15th, Mount Vernon flowers were laid upon Miss Cunningham's grave at Columbia, S. C. This fact was noted with much interest by the Southern press.

#### INSURANCE.

Last June all policies of insurance on the property were renewed for the usual period of three years, care being observed to place the same with the most reliable companies.

#### PORTRAITS.

Through the kindness of the Vice Regent for Maryland the Washington miniature (by Peale), loaned by Mr. George Stuart, was properly cleaned by a party in Baltimore. It was promptly returned to Mount Vernon and placed in the cabinet in the Banquet Hall.

For greater safety and to afford better light I moved the Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington from the Banquet Hall to the Music Room.

#### GUIDE BOOKS.

The supply of guide books was renewed by ordering from the publisher another edition of 5,000 copies. Some changes in text and illustrations brings it "up to date."

#### POST CARD.

The large edition of post cards authorized at last Council

(while not entirely up to our expectation in artistic design) met with ready sale. An improved edition is now being arranged for.

### GIFTS.

The following gifts to Mount Vernon were received during the year and acknowledged by me.

From Mr. Wm. F. Havemeyer, of New York, a framed manuscript map, by George Washington, of part of this estate.

From Dr. C. J. Peacock, of London, a framed water color sketch of the Washington cottage at Brington, and large photograph of Sulgrave Manor.

From Mr. Andrew Carnegie, a copy of Burns' poems, duplicate of volume owned by George Washington.

From Mrs. Herbert H. D. Pierce, of Washington, an interesting old music book entitled "Anthems to George Washington."

From Mr. Charles A. Johnston, of Montgomery, Alabama, a beautifully engrossed sketch of Washington's life.

From the Colonial Dames of America (Through Miss J. J. Boudinot) five volumes of Letters to Washington.

From Mr. W. R. Smith, Superintendent U. S. Botanic Gardens, a variety of plants for the Mount Vernon garden.

From the Vice Regent for Indiana, a handsome carpet for the office.

From the S. McFadden Company, of New York, the annual donation of a large and small flag. Similar donations have been made for several years past, the flags invariably arriving in time to be hoisted in honor of Washington's Birthday.

Several tattered flags, worn out in service here, were sent, by request, to the Vice Regent for North Carolina and Alabama.

A gentleman of Ottawa, Ontario, requested a small bit of wood from the tree planted for His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. This was granted and the wood was inlaid in a souvenir box to contain a history of the royal visit to America in 1860.

This spring the Secretary of Agriculture asked the privilege of using two small seedling trees, an oak and an elm, to plant at Oberlin, Ohio. Granted.

You will remember we received, as a loan, in 1904, from Mr. John McHenry, of Baltimore, a very interesting miniature of General Washington, by Birch. In September of last year, Mr.

McHenry requested that it be returned to him, and I accordingly handed it over to his representative and took his receipt for same.

### DAY LABORERS.

It is quite impossible to enumerate, in a report of this character, everything on which the day laborers were engaged. They grubbed sprouts and weeds from fields, cut dead timber for fuel, dredged sand and gravel for concrete work, unloaded coal scows, plowed for and cultivated crops, shucked corn, mowed hay and fodder, mixed compost, burned brush, repaired fences, filled ice house, mowed lawns, raked leaves, dug ditches, repaired roads, cleaned gutters, cut and laid sod, and attended to all the team work, except the daily coach service.

Several changes occurred among the regular employes.

Old Hammond died June 24th, and was succeeded at the Tomb by Braxton.

The engineer, Anderson, and coachman, Stout, resigned and their places were filled.

Last Christmas the employes were made happy by a gift of money from the Vice Regent for California.

### RECOMMENDATIONS.

By way of informing Council as to what, in my judgment, should have attention during the present year, I will mention the following:

### ENGINES AND PUMPS.

The steam fire engine which was installed here fifteen years ago is about worn out, and so is the force pump at the artesian well.

For an "up-to-date" equipment, capable of much quicker service, and more economical to operate I would advise oil engines and better pumps.

With some essential changes in service mains to reduce friction, the estimated cost of this much needed improvement is placed at \$1,535.00

For the betterment of sanitary conditions in the cow stable it will be necessary to replace the present wooden floors, mangers and drains with Portland cement concrete.

### EMPLOYES QUARTERS.

I would strongly advise making some better provision for lodging the regular employes by locating a set of quarters at suitable points entirely out of sight from the Mansion enclosure. I find it almost impossible to retain good men here because they are not content to live away from their families. Six or seven cabins, of four rooms each, would solve the problem and relieve the crowded conditions now existing here.

### BOAT CHANNEL.

The channel by which the steamboat approaches our wharf has become so shallow from accumulation of silt it is difficult for the boat to drag through it when the tide is very low. As the Government heretofore has attended to the dredging of this channel, I made an effort last winter through our Congressman, to have the River and Harbor Committee favor us. A preliminary survey and report was ordered and I have a communication to that effect from the U. S. Engineer in charge of Potomac River Improvements. This letter indicates the improbability of the Government doing the work. This subject should be carefully considered by Council and a suitable answer sent. If the Government declines to aid us this dredging must be done either by the Association or by the Boat Company.

### MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS.

There is much work of miscellaneous character to be attended to this year. Some plastering in the upper rooms of Mansion should be replaced. The paneling and walls of Library to be pointed and painted. Some of the outside woodwork needs repair. The paling fences on garden walls must be strengthened and painted. Shingle roofs of the two seed houses must be renewed. Additional recommendations there may be after I have had an opportunity to confer with the several committees, but the foregoing seem to me the most essential for present consideration.

I trust your inspection of the property will be thorough and that what I have done will convince you that my efforts to preserve and advance the interests of Mount Vernon are unceasing.

Thanking the Regent and Vice Regents for continued confidence in my humble endeavors, I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant,

HARRISON H. DODGE,  
Resident Secretary and Superintendent.

The Regent presented the names of the ladies nominated by her as Vice Regents for their respective States, as follows:

Mrs. Lewis W. Irwin, Vice Regent for Ohio.

Miss Mary Failing, Vice Regent for Oregon.

Mrs. Eliza Ferry Leary, Vice Regent for Washington.

Mrs. B. S. Ricks, Vice Regent for Mississippi.

Mrs. John Carter Brown, Vice Regent for Rhode Island.

Action was taken by Council and all were confirmed.

Council adjourned at 5 o'clock p. m. Shortly after adjournment Superintendent Dodge exhibited to the ladies on the piazza a model of the entire building.

#### GARDENER'S REPORT.

The following report of the Gardener was accepted by Council:  
Ladies:

In submitting my report for fiscal year it will of course be necessary to call your attention to the unprecedented weather conditions of the spring months. The state of affairs seriously handicapped us in our garden work, and hence I hope any shortcomings may be viewed charitably.

You will notice I am sure a few changes in our dear old garden, which I hope my Committee may consider for its betterment.

In front of N. Y. quarters all the ragged, narrow grass borders have been removed and beds edged with primrose plants. Grass borders renewed in front of Kansas quarters, and in several other places in the garden.

The crape myrtle circles edged with violets and primrose plants.

Rigorous winter weather and decreased travel caused a reduction in receipts.

Total receipts .....\$627.15

Expenditures for postage on orders, postals etc... 11.85

Cash to Superintendent .....\$615.30

Sincerely hoping my department may be found in satisfactory condition, I am, dear ladies,

Yours very faithfully,

Mount Vernon,

May 19, 1907.

FRANKLIN A. WHELAN,

Head Gardener.



## REPORT OF SECRETARY FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 16, 1907.

July 22, 1906, Received from Printer:

53 Copies Minutes, 1906, 72 pages.

800 copies Reports, 1906, 49 pages.

Total cost .....\$90.00

Regent's cheque to Printer .....\$90.00

## OFFICE EXPENSES.

Typewriting .....\$11.75

Expressage and postage ..... 28.68

Assistant ..... 5.00

Printing citations, postage ..... 5.00

Expressage, manuscript minutes ..... .74

\$51.17

My cheque from Regent .....\$50.00

Balance, 1906, ..... 12.29

\$62.29

Total expenses ..... 51.17

Balance, 1907, .....\$11.12

Accepted.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

## MANSION COMMITTEE.

It would be superfluous to mention here all the important work done in the Mansion during the past year. The Superintendent has given in his report a clear and detailed account of what has been accomplished. I would like to add, however, that after inspecting the Mansion from attic to cellar, the Committee recognizes the importance of the work, and the very excellent manner in which it has been carried out.

There are a few suggestions of a miscellaneous character to be made, which are as follows:

1st. The plastering in the Wisconsin room, as well as in some of the other attic rooms requires renewing.

2nd. That the ceiling and walls of the Superintendent's office be repaired; also some other necessary painting and plastering be done.

3d. The doors on the ground floor of the Mansion require painting. The Committee would recommend that, should there be any way of ascertaining the original color of these doors the repainting may be in accordance.

4th. That the chimneys on the Mansion and out-buildings be painted the color of brick and pencilled, instead of the color of the roof as they are at present.

Respectfully submitted,

REBECCA B. FLANDRAU, Chairman.

ELLEN W. HARRISON.

FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS.

Report accepted.

#### FURNITURE COMMITTEE.

The Furniture Committee has gone over the house and finds it in good order.

The Vice Regent for New Jersey will send fresh curtains for the Lafayette room, and the Vice Regent for Ohio will replace those now in the music room by others more suitable.

The counterpane taken by Mrs. Harrison to be cleaned has been returned to General Washington's bed. It was in such a frail condition that the woman claimed seventy dollars for a summer's work in darning. It was beautifully done and Mrs. Harrison herself paid for the work.

Changes have been made in the disposition of some of the pictures.

The Committee would suggest that the hangings and bed covers which have not been washed this year should now be cleaned; also that some of the cards on relics in rooms, now soiled, be renewed. Also that more candlesticks be supplied.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN F. CONOVER, Chairman.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM.

HARRIET C. COMEGYS.

AMY TOWNSEND.

ELLEN W. HARRISON.

Report accepted.

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The Library Committee reports having gone over the books on the shelves in the Library, and made changes in the position of many of them, so as to bring the books into plainer view that belonged originally to General Washington or members of his family. The shelves of the Library are being gradually filled with valuable books contributed from year to year. The books contributed this year are:

1. Five volumes of the Sentimental Magazine, 1794.
2. Stephens' Philadelphia Directory for 1796, presented through Miss Townsend by a friend living in New York.
3. Three bound volumes of the Minutes of Council.
4. A bound volume containing Washington's Will; Maternal Ancestry; Christian Character, and a paper upon Washington as an inventor, presented by Mrs. Richardson, Vice Regent for Louisiana.
5. The Colonial Dames of America presented through the Regent, Mrs. Townsend, five volumes of Letters to Washington.

Respectfully submitted,

IDA A. RICHARDSON, Chairman.

HELEN FIELD CONOVER.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

MRS. R. D. JOHNSTON.

Report accepted.

## GROUNDS, TREES AND SHRUBS COMMITTEE.

Madam Regent:

As Acting Chairman of your Committee on Grounds, Trees and Shrubs, I beg leave to present the following suggestions:

The restoration to the original plan of the "Bowling Green," time having gradually destroyed the graceful outlines of this lawn.

That the "Summer House" be put in order. It needs repairs and painting.

A new "Horse-Lawn-Mower" is needed, price \$65.

Portions of the Road from the Tomb to the wharf should be resurfaced.

Engine and Force Pump for more efficient water supply, should be provided, cost \$1,530.00

Paint garden fence.

In Washington, 16th Street has been renamed "Washington Avenue." Your Committee would propose that Mount Vernon oaks be given to the Commissioners of the District for planting upon this avenue.

To plant box in front of the two windows of the office, looking south.

To plant box in front of kitchen windows.

To plant box on east side of milk house, near kitchen.

To plant ivy on outside of school house wall.

To plant Clematis and Virginia Creeper around the well house, behind the Quarters.

To plant ivy on garden wall on both sides of the "Bowling Green."

To plant one maple tree near New York quarters, to finish out the row of maples now there.

Your committee would call attention to the faithful and admirable manner in which its recommendations have been carried out during the past year, adding beauty to the grounds; also to the excellence of the new road to the wharf and to the numerous details that prove the unceasing care and unfailing judgment of our Superintendent.

Respectfully submitted,

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON, Acting Chairman.

IDA S. RICHARDSON.

CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM.

AMY TOWNSEND.

Report accepted.

#### GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Garden and Greenhouses was much gratified to find everything in this department in a flourishing condition. The box hedges and shrubs were never more verdant and beautiful, and the healthy, well developed buds of the rose bushes and peonies, give promise of a mass of rich color in the near future, which the lateness of the season has delayed.

The Committee was particularly pleased with the excellent

growth of the English ivy on the north wall of the quarters.

1. The Committee recommends to Council an appropriation for fine gravel for the garden walks.

2. The Committee also recommends to Council thorough overhauling and repairing of the greenhouses, as the wood-work in some places is unsound.

3. The Committee recommends the purchase of crocus, snow drop, daffodil and hyacinth bulbs for early spring blooming.

The instructions to the head gardener were: 1, to reduce the width of the violet borders one half; 2, to have the nettles uprooted once a month so as to rid the fences and hedges of them; 3, to substitute English ivy for the ampelopsis now growing on the west wall of the quarters; 4, to dispose of all of the very large palms that cannot be planted permanently in the palm house. These large palms having become too unwieldy to be moved to and from the palm house in the spring and fall.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Acting Chairman.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.

AMY TOWNSEND.

HARRIET CLAYTON, COMEGYS.

SARAH P. VAN RENSSELAER.

Report accepted.

#### KITCHEN GARDEN COMMITTEE.

The Committee on the Kitchen Garden reports the vegetables and fruits in very good condition, and recommends that the figs, when ripe, be offered for sale to visitors.

The piers of the brick wall require pointing and the wooden steps to seed house needs repairing or replacing. The roof of tool house must be repaired, also the paling fence painted and the brick wall whitewashed.

ELLEN W. HARRISON, Chairman.

SARAH P. VAN RENSSELAER.

ELIZABETH W. A. PRINGLE.

HARRIET C. COMEGYS.

AMY TOWNSEND.

LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON.

Report accepted.

### FARM COMMITTEE.

The Farm Committee reports that considering the condition of the weather during the season of 1906, which affected the crops in all of the Eastern States, Mount Vernon is in good condition.

They recommend the use of large quantities of lime on the soil, the plowing and working of the fields near the barn; the sowing of peas, red clover and rye. They ask for a fodder cutter for the use of stables and cow houses.

Respectfully submitted,

ELLEN W. HARRISON, Chairman.

ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.

FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.

MARGARETTA M. BARRET.

Report accepted.

### TOMB COMMITTEE.

Your Committee have to report the good condition of both tombs. They recommend more ivy to be planted in front of the new tomb and that measures be taken to remove the red paint from the face of it.

During the year many associations have laid tributes of love and reverence on the Tomb of Washington. Just before the assembling of Council, General Kuroki and his Japanese suite visited Mount Vernon, and with impressive reverence placed beautiful wreaths upon the sarcophagus, and while Council was in session Duke d'Abruzzi made a pilgrimage to the home of the great Washington and reverently laid a wreath of rare flowers upon his Tomb.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Acting Chairman.

EMMA R. BALL.

FANNY J. D. ROGERS.

Report accepted.

### RECORD COMMITTEE.

For the purpose of filing with our records your Committee has received the letters relating to the looking glass presented through Mrs. Harrison, Vice Regent for Pennsylvania, by descendants of the late Admiral T. Ball Sullivan, of the British Navy, and also the letters giving the history of the "Cincinnati" plate,

once owned by General Washington, and presented to this Association through Miss Amy Townsend, Vice Regent for New York. Another collection of old letters, concerning the early history of our Association, has been found by the Vice Regent for Connecticut. These will be examined and reported on at the next Council.

The following letter recently found among the papers left by the first Vice Regent for Delaware is evidently in response to one written by Miss Cunningham, our first Regent, to the niece of President Buchanan, in which she has endeavored to obtain the influence of his Cabinet in behalf of Mount Vernon:

Executive Mansion, Saturday, December 11, 1859.

My Dear Madam:

I have received your letter of the 9th and will not fail to present it to the consideration of the Cabinet on Tuesday next.

With best wishes for your success, I remain,

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) HARRIET R. LANE.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, Chairman

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON.

JENNIE M. WARD.

Report accepted.

#### COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS.

No report.

#### GUIDE BOOK COMMITTEE.

It became necessary for the Committee to order a new edition of 5,000 copies of the Guide Book in January. The new edition has several additional pages and pictures which make it more complete and satisfactory. The Guide Book is copyrighted in the name of the Association. The price of the edition is \$750.00, making each copy cost the Association fifteen cents, and as they are sold for twenty-five cents, there is a profit on each book of ten cents to the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

Report accepted.

### RELIC COMMITTEE.

The Committee opened each case and examined and verified each relic according to list in said case; found nothing missing. All has been cleaned and replaced and left in perfect order. We added to list the few new relics handed in or loaned.

Respectfully submitted.

IDA A. RICHARDSON, Chairman

GEORGIA P. WILDER.

FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS.

ELIZABETH W. A. PRINGLE.

Report accepted.

#### Relics given in 1907:

A lock of Washington's hair, presented through the Vice Regent for Kentucky by Mr. Charles Hand Ball, of Philadelphia.

A Paul Revere spoon, presented by Mrs. Barret of Kentucky.

A "Society of the Cincinnati" plate, from the Library of John Fiske, presented through Miss Amy Townsend, Vice Regent, for New York. This plate is from the service presented to Washington by the French officers at the time of his election as first President of the Order of the Cincinnati. It is one of the same set which passed down through the Custis family.

### POST CARD COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Post Cards has to report that after looking over samples of Mount Vernon cards shown by Messrs. Leet Brothers, we have selected what would seem best calculated to serve our purpose of meeting the public demand.

Messrs. Leet Brothers, who propose to arrange, as was agreed upon, have sent a statement showing the cost and the profit which would come to us from the sale.

Respectfully submitted.

AMY TOWNSEND, Chairman.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

### COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY LAW.

The Committee reports acceptance of "Form of Procedure at



Councils' and "Rules of Order" as printed in this year's Minutes (1907).

Respectfully submitted,

R. B. MANDERSON, Chairman.

Report accepted.

#### COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION OF RELICS.

This Committee reports that it will acknowledge politely, but decline all offers made for the sale of Washington relics, at this Council, as it desires to concentrate its interest on the purchase of the old Washington Family Bible, which contains the entries of his father's and mother's marriage, and his birth, baptism and marriage. The Committee strongly recommends to Council the purchase of this Bible, which is on sale at Dodd, Meade & Co's., New York.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Chairman.

EMMA R. BALL.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.

Report accepted.

#### INDEX COMMITTEE.

No report.

#### PRESS COMMITTEE.

The Committee made a verbal report that the names of the Vice Regents attending Council, and list of gifts had been sent to papers in Washington and elsewhere.

Report accepted.

#### CONDENSED REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Total Receipts for year ending April 30, 1907.....	\$32,405.77
Expenditures .....	<u>28,250.50</u>
Balance .....	\$4,155.20
Interest Endowment .....	<u>3,165.99</u>
Net Balance .....	\$7,321.19

Tuesday afternoon the delegation from the Governor of Virginia arrived at Mount Vernon. Mrs. Swanson, wife of the Governor, escorted by Judge R. W. Duke, Mr. Legh R. Page, and Mr. Marshall, members of the Board of Visitors, were presented to the Regent and Vice Regents on the front piazza of the Mansion. Mr. Thomas Nelson Page and Mrs. Page were also received there.

About two o'clock luncheon was served in the Library and the porch adjoining. The weather being unseasonably cold after luncheon the party adjourned to the lawn in front of the Mansion where the sun shone in full glory and where the Regent, surrounded by the Vice Regents and guests, enjoyed the exquisite view of the lawn and river until the arrival of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Abruzzi, Commander of the Italian squadron at Jamestown, who had expressed a wish to visit the tomb of Washington and to be allowed to place a wreath upon his tomb at Mount Vernon.

The Duke came on board the "Mayflower" with a brilliant party. She anchored in the stream and the guests came ashore in launches. The Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Metcalf, presented his Royal Highness to the Regent and Vice Regents, also the Baron Major des Planches, the Italian Ambassador and his wife. After a few minutes talk the Duke offered his arm to the Regent and they moved across the lawn to the North of the Mansion, followed by the Vice Regents and the rest of the party. Our Superintendent, Mr. Dodge had a tree, a fine straight tulip poplar, placed in the ground, and asked the Duke to put in a spade full of earth; then the Regent was requested to put in a spade full, which she did with dignity and grace; then Mrs. Swanson, followed by Mrs. Howard, daughter of John A. Washington, and General Manderson, and, finally, the Duke took the spade and put the finishing touch. Dr. Thomas Nelson Page, at the request of the Regent, made a short, but most happy address of welcome, greeting the Duke as a representative of the great Latin race from which Columbus, Dante and all the great names of Italy had sprung; also as a representative of the great Italian monarch who had given to his people the greatest of boons—Constitutional freedom—saying if there were more worlds to be discovered the

Duke would prove himself a second Columbus. Dr. Page concluded by saying that Mount Vernon, like Rome, belonged to the whole world.

His Royal Highness and party visited the Tomb on their way from the boat to the Mansion and with the greatest solemnity and reverence the Duke placed at the head of the tomb a most beautiful wreath of lilac orchids, lilies of the valley, American Beauty roses and palms, tied with ribbons of red, white and green, the Italian colors. A silver card, engraved with these words in Italian: "To the glorious memory of Georgia Washington from Luigi di Savoia, Duca degli Abruzzi" was attached to wreath.

Miss Sharpe of Woodlawn, brought to Council a medal struck off for the committee of three who received Gen. Washington at his first inauguration, 1789. It has the arms of the United States, the shield and eagle with one star above. It is marked, Fourth of March Memorial, 1789. It is about the size of a quarter dollar and has been very carefully preserved.

The first day of the session Miss Elizabeth Montgomery Sharpe, owner of Woodlawn, (the home of Nellie Custis), and Mr. and Mrs. St. George Tucker came to Mount Vernon to invite the ladies of the Council to tea at Woodlawn on Wednesday. The invitation was accepted and several of the ladies enjoyed the pleasant occasion.

The following resolution of thanks to Mrs. Ball was offered.

The delegates representing Mount Vernon Association at the ceremonies at Jamestown on the 11th and 13th of May desire to express their enthusiastic appreciation of the manner in which the Chairman of the Delegation, Mrs. Emma R. Ball, Vice Regent for Virginia, planned and carried out the program for their entertainment.

The Vice Regents were received at the Jefferson Hotel, Richmond, on Friday, the 10th, by Mrs. Ball, and assigned to the pleasant rooms secured for them. After luncheon a drive was arranged that they might see the interesting portions of the city of Richmond.

A reception given by the Governor and Mrs. Swanson to the Vice Regents followed. The Vice Regents were received with

great distinction and presented to a number of Richmond's fair dames.

From the Governor's Mansion the delegates were driven to the Club House, where Mrs. Cox, President of the National Society of Colonial Dames was receiving the visiting Dames.

Thus the delegates were delightfully entertained in Richmond.

The celebration of the two days at Jamestown have become national history, and the delegates have only to add their warm thanks to Mrs. Ball for her unremitting care and attention, and for the distinguished consideration with which, through her kindness, they were treated everywhere.

AMY TOWNSEND, New York.

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM, Missouri.

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, Delaware.

MARGARETTA M. BARRET, Kentucky.

MRS. JOSEPH J. WILDER, Georgia.

E. B. A. RATHBONE, Michigan.

SARAH P. VAN RENSSELAER, West Va.

ELIZABETH W. A. PRINGLE, S. Carolina.

Colonel Hilary Herbert, Ex-Secretary of the Navy, visited Mount Vernon, with his daughter and grandchild. His interest is still undiminished, his wife and daughter, Miss Leila Herbert, both having served as Vice Regents. He gave an interesting account of the finding and restoring to the place of the sword obtained from the Dangerfield Lewis house, and the copies of the engravings of the death of Wolfe and of Montgomery, obtained in New York City.

The Rev. Mr. Meade, of Pohick, and Rev. Mr. Wallis, former Rector, were welcome visitors on Tuesday.

Several of the ladies attended Church at Pohick on Sunday.

The following message was sent to Mrs. Walker, of North Carolina, who became a member of the Association in 1860, and has served faithfully through all the years since. She was unable to be present this year.

To the Beloved Dean of our Association:

We, your Regent and sister Vice Regents, wish to express to you our great regret at your absence from this Council. We

have felt a blank every day as we look down the long table to the seat so long and worthily occupied by North Carolina. Will you accept this message of loving greeting and promise not to be absent again.

JUSTINE V. R. TOWNSEND, Regent.

EMMA R. BALL, Virginia.

IDA R. RICHARDSON, Louisiana.

S. E. J. HUDSON, Connecticut.

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, Delaware.

JENNIE M. WARD, Kansas.

AMY TOWNSEND, New York.

CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM, Missouri.

ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE, S. C.

FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS, Maryland.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Michigan.

GEORGIA P. WILDER, Georgia.

SARAH P. VAN RENSSELAER, West Va.

LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON, Alabama.

FRANCES JONES RICKS, Mississippi.

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## LIST OF COMMITTEES.

The Regent presented the following list of committees:

### FINANCE.

Mrs. Ball, chairman; Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Graham.

### MANSION. .

Mrs. Flandrau, chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Rogers.

### FURNITURE.

Mrs. Conover, chairman; Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Graham, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Johnston.

### LIBRARY.

Miss Longfellow, chairman; Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Ricks.

### GROUNDS AND SHRUBS.

Mrs. Leiter, chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Irwin.

### GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE.

Mrs. Barnes, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Leiter, Mrs. Wilder, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Maxey, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

### KITCHEN GARDEN.

Mrs. Harrison, chairman; Miss Townsend, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Pringle.

### FARM.

Mrs. Hearst, chairman; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Rogers.

### TOMB.

Mrs. Walker, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Flandrau Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Wilder.

### RELICS.

Mrs. Richardson, chairman; Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Rogers.

### RECORD.

Miss Comegys, chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Ward.

### BY-LAWS.

Mrs. Richardson, chairman; Mrs. Sweat, Mrs. Manderson.

### INDEX.

Mrs. Flandrau, chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Richardson.

### PARLIAMENTARY RULES.

Mrs. Sweat, chairman; Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. J. Carter Brown.

### PRESS.

Mrs. Wilder, chairman; Miss Longfellow, Mrs. Webb, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Barret.

### GUIDE BOOK.

Mrs. Rathbone, chairman; Mrs. Webb, Miss Longfellow.

## POSTAL CARD.

Miss Townsend, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Graham.

## INVESTIGATION OF WASHINGTON RELICS.

Mrs. Rathbone, chairman; Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Harrison:

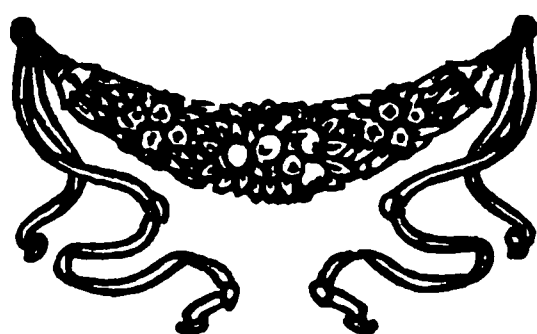
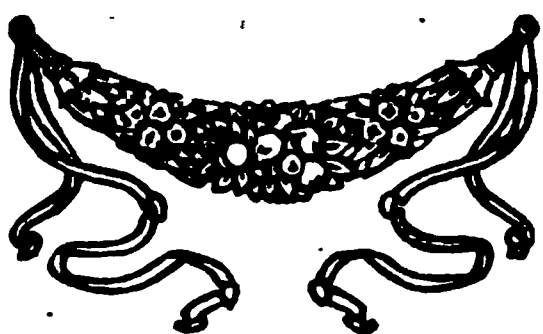
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The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union presents herewith the Annual Report of the Council of 1907, held at Mount Vernon, May 16 to 24. This Association was founded in 1853, for the purchase of the Mansion and Tomb with 200 acres of land surrounding them.

It was organized and chartered under the laws of Virginia, "To preserve and maintain the Home and Tomb forever sacred to the Father of his Country."

The founder, Miss Cunningham assisted by Hon. Edward Everett, secured the purchase money. She became first Regent. In 1873, owing to ill health she resigned. Her last message was the "Farewell letter to Council of 1874," which appears in full on following pages.

JENNIE MEEKER WARD,  
Secretary, and Vice Regent for Kansas.



## THE FAREWELL ADDRESS

OF THE FOUNDER AND FIRST REGENT OF THE  
MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNION

**T**O the Council of the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association of June, 1874. Ladies: It was my intention, as well as my duty, to have met you at this time and conformed in person to the legal requisition accompanying a resignation so important as mine; but Providence does not permit.

But in parting, I feel it due to you as to me; to the responsibilities I solemnly assumed, which were so important in their results; to those you have taken upon yourselves; to say a few words as to those responsibilities or duties, laid down in the beginning of our work, not to be lightly regarded, for they were pledges to future generations as well as to ours. The minds and hearts which conceived the rescue of the home of Washington; of the completion of a worthy "tribute" to public integrity and private virtue; an expression of the gratitude due and felt by a country destined to act such an important part in the drama of the world; conceived it with all the reverence felt in older regions for the resting-places of their honored dead; where only pious hands are permitted to



be in "charge," so as to have them carried down to admiring eyes in the same conditions as when left.

Such was the pledge made to the American heart when an appeal was made to it to save the home and tomb of Washington, the father of his country, from all change, whether by law or desecration. Such, to the last owner of Mount Vernon, ere he was willing to permit it to pass from his hands. Such to the legislature of his mother state, ere she gave us legal rights over it. Such are we bound to keep. Our honor is concerned, as well as our intelligence and legal obligations. The mansion and the grounds around it should be religiously guarded from changes—should be kept as Washington left them.

Ladies, the home of Washington is in your charge; see to it that you keep it the home of Washington. Let no irreverent hand change it; no vandal hands desecrate it with the fingers of progress! Those who go to the home in which he lived and died, wish to see in what he lived and died. Let one spot in this grand country of ours be saved from change! Upon you rests this duty.

When the Centennial comes, bringing with it its thousands from the ends of the earth, to whom the home of Washington will be the place of places in our country, let them see that, though we slay our forests, remove our dead, pull down our churches, remove from home to home, till the hearthstone seems to have no resting place in America; let them see that we do know how to care for the home of our Hero! Farewell!

Ladies, I return to your hands the office so long held—since December 2nd, 1853.

Respectfully,

June 1st, 1874.

ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM.

## COMPLETE LIST OF ALL OFFICERS OF MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION.

—  
 Founder and First Regent 1853-1873,  
 Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, South Carolina,  
 Resigned 1873, Died 1874.  
 —

### VICE REGENTS APPOINTED 1858.

1. Mrs. Anna Cora Ogden Ritchie, resigned 1866.....Virginia
2. Mrs. Alice Dickinson, resigned 1859.....North Carolina
3. Mrs. Philoclea Edgeworth Eve, died 1889.....Georgia
4. Mrs. Octavia Walton Le Vert, died 1866.....Mississippi
6. Mrs. Margaretta S. Morse, resigned 1873; died 1895, Louisiana
7. Mrs. Mary Rutledge Fogg, died——.....Tennessee
8. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Walton, resigned 1860.....Missouri
9. Miss Mary Morris Hamilton, died 1876.....New York
10. Mrs. Louisa Ingersoll Greenough, resigned 1865.....  
       ..... Massachusetts
11. Mrs. Abba Isabella Little, resigned 1863.....Maine
12. Mrs. Catherine Willis Murat, died 1867.....Florida
13. Mrs. Mary Boott Goodrich, resigned 1861.....Connecticut
14. Miss Phebe Ann Ogden, died 1867.....New Jersey
15. Mrs. Alice Key Pendleton, resigned 1863; died 1885....Ohio
16. Mrs. Abby Wheaton Chace, died 1892.....Rhode Island
17. Mrs. Jane Maria Van Antwerp, died——.....Iowa
18. Mrs. Margaret Ann Comegys, died 1888.....Delaware
19. Mrs. Hannah Blake Farnsworth, died 1879.....Michigan
20. Mrs. Martha Mitchell, died 1902.....Wisconsin
22. Mrs. Rosa Vertner Johnson, died——.....Kentucky

1859.

23. Mrs. Elizabeth Willard Barry, died 1884.....Illinois
24. Mrs. Sarah J. Sibley, died 1869.....Minnesota
25. Mrs. Mary Pepperell Jarvis Cutts, resigned 1878...Vermont
26. Miss Lily Lytle Macalester, died 1891.....Pennsylvania
27. Mrs. Magdalen G. Blanding, resigned 1883.....California
28. Mrs. Harriet V. Fitch, died 1880.....Indiana
29. Mrs. Sarah H. Johnson, died 1866.....Arkansas

30. Mrs. Anne Lucas Hunt, died 1878.....Missouri  
 31. Mrs. Letitia Harper Walker .....North Carolina

## 1860.

32. Mrs. Mary Chestnut, died 1861.....South Carolina  
 33. Mrs. Margaret J. M. Sweat.....Maine  
 34. Miss Emily L. Harper, died 1891.....Maryland  
 35. Mrs. Lucy H. Pickens, died August 1899.....South Carolina  
 36. Mrs. M. E. Hickman, resigned 1867.....Nevada  
 37. Mrs. M. A. Stearns, resigned 1872.....New Hampshire  
 38. Mrs. Emily R. M. Hewson, resigned 1866.....Ohio  
 39. Miss Ella Hutchins, resigned 1866.....Texas

## 1867.

40. Mrs. Janet M. C. Riggs, resigned 1868...District of Columbia  
 41. Mrs. Maria Brooks, resigned 1876.....New York  
 42. Mrs. Matilda W. Emory, resigned 1873...District of Columbia  
 43. Mrs. Nancy Wade Halsted, died 1891.....New Jersey

## 1868.

44. Mrs. Nannie C. Yulee, died 1884.....Florida

## 1870.

45. Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson .....Connecticut  
 46. Mrs. Betsey C. Mason, died 1873.....Virginia  
 47. Mrs. A. P. Dillon, resigned 1874; died 1898.....Iowa  
 48. Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, died 1898.....West Virginia

## 1872.

49. Mrs. William Balfour, resigned 1875.....Mississippi  
 50. Mrs. Mary T. Barnes.....District of Columbia  
 51. Mrs. David Urquhart, resigned 1876.....Louisiana  
 52. Miss Mary E. Maverick, resigned 1873.....Texas  
 53. Mrs. C. L. Scott, resigned 1877.....Arkansas

This was the last appointment of Miss Cunningham, First Regent

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MRS. LILY M. BERGHMAN.

Second Regent, 1874-1891.

Died 1891.

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Vice Regents Appointed 1874.

54. Mrs. Emma Reed Ball.....Virginia  
 55. Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, died 1883.....Tennessee

## 1875.

56. Mrs. Lily L. Broadwell, died 1890.....Ohio  
 57. Mrs. John P. Jones .....Nevada

## 1876.

58. Mrs. Jennie Meeker Ward.....Kansas  
 59. Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend.....New York

## 1878.

60. Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, resigned 1880.....Vermont

## 1879.

61. Miss Alice Longfellow.....Massachusetts  
 62. Mrs. Robert Campbell, died 1882.....Missouri

## 1880.

63. Mrs. Ida A. Richardson .....Louisiana

## 1882.

64. Mrs. Ella S. Herbert, died 1884.....Alabama

## 1885.

65. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Adams Rathbone.....Michigan  
 66. Mrs. Mary T. Leiter.....Illinois  
 67. Mrs. Janet De Kay King, died 1896.....Vermont  
 68. Mrs. Eliza Woodward, died 1897.....Kentucky

## 1888.

69. Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys .....Delaware  
 70. Mrs. Fanny Gilchrist Baker, died 1901.....Florida

## 1889.

71. Mrs. Alice Hill .....Colorado  
 72. Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau .....Minnesota  
 73. Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst .....California

## 1890.

74. Mrs. A. R. Winder, died 1906, May.....New Hampshire

## 1891.

75. Mrs. Georgia Page Wilder.....Georgia  
This was the last nomination of Mrs. Lily Macalester Laugh-  
ton, second Regent (Madame Berghman).
- 

## MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND.

Third Regent.

## Vice Regents Appointed 1893.

76. Mrs. George R. Goldsborough, resigned 1904, died 1906  
..... Maryland  
77. Mrs. J. Dundas Lippincott, died 1894.....Pennsylvania  
78. Miss Mary Lloyd Pendleton, resigned 1897.....Ohio  
79. Mrs. Philip Schuyler, resigned 1893.....New York  
80. Mrs. Christine Blair Graham.....Missouri  
81. Mrs. Francis S. Conover.....New Jersey  
82. Mrs. Mary Polk Yeatman Webb .....Tennessee

## 1894.

83. Miss Leila Herbert, died 1897.....Alabama

## 1895.

84. Mrs. Robert H. Clarkson, resigned 1900; died 1902..Nebraska  
85. Mrs. William Ames, died 1904.....Rhode Island  
86. Miss Amy Townsend .....New York

## 1896.

87. Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison .....Pennsylvania  
88. Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey.....Texas

## 1898.

89. Mrs. James E. Campbell, resigned 1902.....Ohio

## 1900.

90. Mrs. R. D. Johnston .....Alabama  
91. Mrs. C. F. Manderson .....Nebraska  
92. Mrs. E. Van Rensselaer .....West Virginia

## 1901.

- 93. Mrs. J. J. Pringle .....South Carolina
- 94. Mrs. Wm. F. Barret.....Kentucky
- 95. Mrs. Chas. Denby, died Dec. 26, 1906.....Indiana

## 1905.

- 96. Mrs. Fannie J. D. Rogers.....Maryland

## 1907.

- 97. Mrs. Alice Key Irwin .....Ohio
- 98. Mrs. Mary F. Failing .....Oregon
- 99. Mrs. Eliza F. Leary .....Washington
- 100. Mrs. Frances J. Ricks .....Mississippi
- 101. Mrs. J. Carter Brown .....Rhode Island









**1908**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association  
of the Union**

**ANNUAL COUNCIL**

**HELD AT**

**MOUNT VERNON-ON-THE-POTOMAC**

**FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

**MAY 14 to 22, 1908**



**OFFICERS**  
**OF THE**  
**MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION**  
**OF THE UNION.**

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**REGENT.**

**MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND,**  
Winter Address, 131 East 71st Street, New York City, N. Y.  
Summer address, Care Howard Townsend, Esq., Southampton,  
Long Island, N. Y.

**VICE REGENTS.**

**MRS. SUSAN E. J. HUDSON,** Connecticut.  
**MRS. MARY T. BARNES,** District of Columbia.  
**MRS. CHARLES B. BALL,** Virginia.  
**MRS. JENNIE M. WARD,** Kansas.  
**MISS ALICE M. LONGFELLOW,** Massachusetts.  
**MRS. IDA A. RICHARDSON,** Louisiana.  
**MRS. ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,** Michigan.  
**MRS. MARY T. LEITER,** Illinois.  
**MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,** Delaware.  
**MRS. ALICE HILL,** Colorado.  
**MRS. REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,** Minnesota.  
**MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST,** California.  
**MRS. J. J. WILDER,** Georgia.  
**MRS. CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM,** Missouri.  
**MRS. FRANCIS S. CONOVER,** New Jersey.  
**MRS. THOMAS SHAPARD WEBB, SR.,** Tennessee.  
**MISS AMY TOWNSEND,** New York.  
**MRS. CHARLES CUSTIS HARRISON,** Pennsylvania.  
**MRS. THOMAS S. MAXEY,** Texas.  
**MRS. ROBERT D. JOHNSTON,** Alabama.  
**MRS. CHARLES F. MANDERSON,** Nebraska.  
**MRS. EUGENE VAN RENSSELAER,** West Virginia.

MRS. JOHN JULIUS PRINGLE, South Carolina.

MRS. WILLIAM F. BARRET, Kentucky.

MRS. HENRY W. ROGERS, Maryland.

MRS. LEWIS W. IRWIN, Ohio.

MRS. FRANCES J. RICKS, Mississippi.

MISS MARY F. FAILING, Oregon.

MRS. ELIZA F. LEARY, Washington.

MRS. J. CARTER BROWN, Rhode Island.

#### RECORDING SECRETARY.

MRS. JENNIE MEEKER WARD, Ottawa, Kansas.

#### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

MRS. ELIZABETH PRINGLE, "Chicora ' Wood," Plantersville,  
Georgetown Co., South Carolina.

#### TREASURER.

MR. E. FRANCIS RIGGS, Washington, D. C.

#### RESIDENT SUPERINTENDENT.

MR. HARRISON H. DODGE, Mt. Vernon-on-Potomac, Va.

#### ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT.

MR. JAMES YOUNG, Mt. Vernon-on-Potomac, Va.

#### RESIDENT ENGINEER.

MR. JAMES R. ARCHER, Mt. Vernon-on-Potomac, Va.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER, Supreme Court, Washington, D. C.

MR. LEWIS CASS LEDYARD, 2 East 87th St. New York City, N. Y.

1908  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNION

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The Board of Regents of the Association met in Annual Council on Thursday, May 14, 1908. Twenty-five ladies being present.

Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend, Regent, New York.  
Mrs. S. E. Johnson Hudson, Vice Regent, Connecticut.  
Mrs. Emma R. Ball, Vice Regent, Virginia.  
Mrs. Jennie M. Ward, Vice Regent, Kansas.  
Mrs. Ida A. Richardson, Vice Regent, Louisiana.  
Mrs. Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone, Vice Regent, Michigan.  
Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys, Vice Regent, Delaware.  
Mrs. Alice Hill, Vice Regent, Colorado.  
Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau, Vice Regent, Minnesota.  
Mrs. J. J. Wilder, Vice Regent, Georgia.  
Mrs. Christine B. Graham, Vice Regent, Missouri.  
Mrs. Francis S. Conover, Vice Regent, New Jersey.  
Miss Amy Townsend, Vice Regent, New York.  
Mrs. Charles C. Harrison, Vice Regent, Pennsylvania.  
Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey, Vice Regent, Texas.  
Mrs. Eugene Van Rensselaer, Vice Regent, West Virginia.  
Mrs. John Julius Pringle, Vice Regent, South Carolina.  
Mrs. William Barret, Vice Regent, Kentucky.  
Mrs. Henry Rogers, Vice Regent, Maryland.  
Mrs. Frances J. Ricks, Vice Regent, Mississippi.  
Miss Mary F. Failing, Vice Regent, Oregon.  
Mrs. Eliza F. Leary, Vice Regent, Washington.  
Mrs. John Carter Brown, Vice Regent, Rhode Island.  
Mrs. R. D. Johnston, Vice Regent, Alabama.  
Mrs. Charles F. Manderson, Vice Regent, Nebraska.

## REGENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Ladies: We meet again at our beloved Mount Vernon to find all nature bright and charming to the eyes, but to the hearts of many a deep sorrow has overwhelmed us. Our dear Mrs. Walker has been taken from our circle after a service of nearly fifty years; her work was over here below and God took her to Himself. We will hear from Mrs. Hudson, who was a life long friend of our late Dean and one well able to tell us more of her beautiful life and character.

Our second loss was that of Mrs. Sweat, whose death was caused by the prevailing illness grippe. Full of ability and possessed of an intellect rich in prose as in poetry, as many of her books would testify, during the latter part of her life, after the death of her husband, she often realized the loneliness of heart which friendships alone could not satisfy. Mrs. Rathbone, who could well appreciate her many gifts, will give us a little sketch of her life.

We have before us today several of our new co-workers to whom we offer our hearts' dear welcome. I want to introduce to you Mrs. J. Carter Brown, of Providence, Rhode Island, Mrs. Eliza Leary, of Seattle, Wahington, and Miss Mary Failing, of Portland, Oregon and we shall take great pleasure in showing them all the many beauties of this dear old place with its history so full of interest to every patriotic American.

All the Vice Regents see for the first time this attractive change of the road to the gateway, in which our Superintendent has shown much good taste. I would also call attention to the old and stately Washington trees, which by skillful treatment by the specialist in such things, Mr. Withers, have been strengthened and beautified for many years to come. In connection with this work a sad accident occurred; one of the men, an Italian, fell from a branch of one of the trees and was much injured and soon after passed away. It was so sad, he had been living in New Hampshire, where his body was taken. I trust that we may be able to aid the employer, who had to pay all the expenses incident upon the accident, and if we could raise a little gift for the widow I feel sure it would be much needed and appreciated.

On August the first of last year one of the four new cabins ordered for the workmen was finished, and the others were completed a few months later, and all with comfort and taste. These new buildings have, of course, been insured against fire.

This year is also one of the most interesting in the history of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association: Just fifty years ago, in March, 1858, John Augustine Washington consented to sell Mount Vernon to the Association. Little did the Founder—Miss Cunningham, ever expect to see such great success of her grand work. In

the early days of 1856 we felt grateful when our treasury held a few hundred dollars, scarcely dreaming of thousands which now have grown into more than \$100,000.00, gathered in the course of fifty years. One month alone—last August—(the banner month) brought no less than twenty-four thousand visitors. Will you dear Sisters pardon the weakness of your Regent when I tell you that for years past I have prayed that my life might be spared to witness this happy and prosperous state of our beloved Mount Vernon.

During the past year several affairs have arisen which afford some anxiety. For a number of years past the Government had dredged the river of mud, which enabled our large boat to reach our wharf, but at the last Council, if you remember, the head officer of the Marine Department informed us the expenses of this work were considered too great to warrant Congress to continue such an outlay for one destination only. It was then decided that this officer should call a meeting of marine engineers, which was done, and the decision was that it should be brought before Congress. As yet we have heard no result of that meeting.

A second question to be brought before the Ladies is an interesting subject, which Mrs. Rathbone will present to us during Council, something romantic and historic.

It was of course natural that all the distinguished visitors to Jamestown should pay a visit to the home of the great Washington. Among the earliest of these was the Duke of Abruzzi whom, we all had the pleasure of welcoming, owing to our Council being a week later than usual. The Duke brought with him an unusually handsome wreath to be placed on the Tomb, and before leaving, planted a tree. General Kuroki and Admiral Ijuin, and many other distinguished guests followed in quick succession month after month. It was during the following month, in June, Mrs. Rathbone, happening to be here for a day, when Captain Baron Van Asbeck (representing the Dutch Navy) and Admiral Thierry the French Navy visited Mount Vernon, received these gentlemen and was present at the planting of their trees.

In November the delegates to the Pan American Peace Conference (in session in Washington) paid a visit to Mount Vernon, at which time their President placed a wreath on Washington's sarcophagus. The following month President Amador, of the Republic of Panama, with his wife, also came for a similar purpose.

The celebration of the anniversary of the death of our Great Hero in December was observed in the usual patriotic manner, when wreaths were sent from Alexandria and Fredericksburg. The two flags from the McFadden factory arrived in time as usual.

The Ladies will see that all the work ordered at last Council to be carried on during the year has been correctly done, the



four new cottages built for the workmen, and also the cottage occupied by Mrs. Vickars removed, and these are all hidden from the Mansion and grounds.

Owing to the unusually large amount of money in the treasury this year, due to the great number of visitors to the Jamestown Exposition, our true friend and Treasurer, Mr. Riggs, who has always been so devoted to our interests for many years, looked about for some safe and advisable investment for us, which he succeeded in finding.

Shortly after our last meeting our Superintendent suffered greatly from inflammation of the eyes, but after consulting an oculist, followed by several weeks' treatment he recovered, but unfortunately a few months later you will be sorry to hear Mr. Dodge met with an accident in breaking the wrist of the right hand. But through all the months of pain and great inconvenience he was able to carry on his full work, through the aid and kindness of his good friends Mr. Young and Mr. Archer.

Dear Ladies, this year is the most noted in the history of the grand work of our honored first Regent, Miss Cunningham. She foresaw plainly the great future with her faith and trust, and also before her the love and interest of all the American States. She has not lived to see it on earth, but she did see in spirit the triumph of her life work. Even the two of our circle whom we are grieving for today were permitted to enjoy this fifty years of success. Our late Dean and our early Historian have left us, one can scarcely call the passing away of Mrs. Walker as Death, hers was "seeing the Angels, who were sent to take her to the everlasting Holy Triune." The heart of each of us all would fain love that parting from the lower to the higher life.

Mrs. Sweat, our early Historian of Mount Vernon, was also privileged to see the great success of Miss Cunningham's life work. An attack of grippe took from her the remaining strength left to her. Alone she passed away before the arrival of her nephew from Portland. Such sadness of loneliness, added to such sadness of solitude, touches every heart.

This year, as I have already mentioned, should be dedicated to its Founder, Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, henceforth her wishes for the future should be carried out. She lived to appoint Vice Regents for eighteen or twenty (18 or 20) States of the Union of America.

We all know the highest honor of Washington was to be called "The Father of His Country,"—not of eighteen or twenty

States, but in the largest and broadest sense of the word—the Union of America.

Dear Sisters, may we all be permitted to meet again at Mount Vernon and may God bless His children in the future as he has done in the past.

JUSTINE V. R. TOWNSEND.

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## MEMORIALS

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Following the Regent's address the following memorials were read:

IN MEMORIAM—MRS. LETITIA HARPER WALKER.

Died January 2, 1908,

At her residence, Spray, North Carolina,

Mrs. Letitia Harper Walker,

Vice Regent, Mount Vernon Ladies' Association,

for North Carolina.

"He Giveth His Beloved Sleep."

Beloved she was of the Heavenly Father, otherwise would he have so richly endowed her with the heavenly gifts of sympathy, love, purity, patience and intellect, a winning grace, an unfailing judgment, with a simplicity and integrity of character as rare as they are beautiful? He gave her also the blessing of a long life whereby her example should elevate all who came within her influence, teaching and transmitting to each and all a portion of these God-bestowed virtues. And finally, without pain, in the fullness and ripeness of her faculties He called her away as she slept, on the New Year's night, a call so quiet, so gentle, so secret, in the darkness of the night, that she alone heard and answered the call, to awake in the glorious dawn of an unending day! It is thus "He Giveth His Beloved Sleep!"

Beloved she was to us all, and hard it is to look upon the vacant chair and know her voice will be no more heard in its

accents of loving advice, encouragement or warning, words which were never without weight, never disregarded.

We have, as it were, lost our beacon light which had so unerringly guided us through all these years, since 1859, when Mrs. Walker became Vice Regent for North Carolina. May the after-glow of this light, undimmed still show us the way as years pass on.

Mrs. Walker was the daughter of Governor Morehead, one of North Carolina's most distinguished sons, whose talents of infinite variety seem to have centered in this rare woman. Artist and musician, as well as practical farmer and gardener, associated from childhood with all that was refined, cultured and intellectual, knowing as she reached womanhood and in after years those most prominent in public life, her social education was perfected which, with her adaptability, ready sympathy, and remarkable conversational powers, rendered her a charming companion, scion of a race passed and gone.

Entering our Association at its inception she knew its poverty, trials, discouragements; but, with other remarkable women whom our first Regent so wisely appointed, Mrs. Walker labored with unflinching courage and hope that never flagged. She lived to see her wildest prophecies fulfilled and to witness the success she had so helped to ensure.

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON.

#### IN MEMORIAM—MRS. MARGARET J. M. SWEAT.

Mrs. Sweat, the Vice Regent for Maine, of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, was born in Portland, Maine, November 26, 1823. She was the daughter of John Mussey and Mehitable Smith. She was married in October, 1849, to Lorenzo de Medici Sweat. They made Portland their residence, though much of their time was spent in Washington, as Mr. Sweat served several terms in Congress, and they subsequently made Washington their winter home. Mr. and Mrs. Sweat travelled extensively in Europe and in the Orient. In an official capacity as a Commissioner, Mr. Sweat attended the Paris Exposition of 1855, and some years later he attended with Mrs. Sweat the ceremonies attending the opening of the North Sea Canal at Kiel.

Mrs. Sweat was taken ill with grippe in October, 1907, and died January 16, 1908.

Mrs. Sweat's father, Gov. John Mussey, made the first contribution of five hundred dollars, to the Mount Vernon Endowment fund.

This is a brief record of a woman remarkable for her brilliant intellectual endowments, for a mental grasp and acumen, and power of organization that might be regarded as characteristic of the sterner sex. Combined with these qualities was a keen sense of

humor which sometimes went the length of keen satire. These natural endowments were cultivated by travel and study and a wide social experience, all of which contributed to make Mrs. Sweat brilliant in conversation and she wrote both poetry and prose with ease and elegance. Her energy was indomitable and whatever she undertook she did thoroughly. She has left as a legacy to the Mount Vernon Association a scrap book of Mount Vernon work which bears witness to her perseverance and energy. She has left also a legacy of towering palms, which will keep her memory green at Mount Vernon in the years to come.

For her life's fitful dream is over, and in a land of light the problems that clouded the earthly vision may be dissipated and all be made clear in the light of eternal truth.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

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## STATE REPORTS

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### ALABAMA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Alabama reports the gift of an engrossed copy of Miss Cunningham's Farewell Address, accompanied by the following letter:

Montgomery, Alabama,  
April 23, 1908.

Mrs. R. D. Johnston,  
Birmingham, Alabama.

Dear Mrs. Johnston:

I am mailing to you, under separate cover, an engrossed copy of the Farewell Address of the first Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union. If you think this copy worthy of presentation to the Board of Regents, kindly present same with my compliments.

I think such a message from so grand a character should be preserved in some memorial form, hence my attempt to put it upon parchment.

If at any time I can serve you or the Association, it will be my pleasure to respond.

Yours very truly,

CHARLES A. JOHNSON.

A Mount Vernon reception was the occasion of bringing to-

gether many lovers of this sacred place. The speeches were fine and the press notices unusually full and satisfactory.

LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON,  
Vice Regent for Alabama.

#### CALIFORNIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent, Mrs. Hearst, writes that it will be impossible for her to meet with Council this year. She remembered each of the employes by substantial Christmas gifts.

(Note, by Secretary.)

#### COLORADO STATE REPORT.

Colorado has no state report for this year, except to say that many reports of 1907 have been distributed, also copies of the life of Miss Cunningham.

ALICE HILL,  
Vice Regent for Colorado.

#### CONNECTICUT STATE REPORT.

There is no report of work done in this State. The soil of Connecticut seems not propitious to the development of the patriotic seeds so laboriously sown by the Vice Regent.

I offer to the Association a volume containing a fac simile of General Washington's accounts from January, 1775, to June, 1783.

The cuttings of the York and Lancaster roses promised by Mrs. Wm. E. Ver Planck, of Fishkill-on-the-Hudson, are now growing at Mount Vernon.

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON,  
Vice Regent for Connecticut.

#### DELAWARE STATE REPORT.

No report.

#### GEORGIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Georgia has distributed copies of Memorial of Miss Cunningham and reports of the Association, and as one of the Committee on Insignia which may be worn by members of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, has corresponded with Bailey, Banks and Biddle, of Philadelphia, and presents the designs sent by them for inspection by the members of Council.

GEORGIA P. WILDER,  
Vice Regent for Georgia.

#### KANSAS STATE REPORT.

The annual reports have been very freely distributed throughout the State. Information concerning Mount Vernon has been given to societies, clubs and to the Historical Society of the State, and to libraries and historical societies of other States. Have found the pamphlet, a memorial of Miss Cunningham, the Founder, par-

ticularly helpful. Received one dollar from Mrs. Sleeper, of Iola, Kansas,—her annual donation. This is applied to the Kansas Room fund.

JENNIE M. WARD,  
Vice Regent for Kansas.

#### KENTUCKY STATE REPORT.

Beyond the continued interest in all matters pertaining to Mount Vernon, I have but little to report.

I have distributed copies of the Memorial of Miss Cunningham, which are read with great interest, invariably correcting the false impression that Mount Vernon owes its restoration to Congress rather than to our honored Founder.

The reports of 1907 have also been distributed.

I have received \$22.00, to be used for the Kentucky room.

Respectfully submitted:

MARGARETTA BARRET,  
Vice Regent for Kentucky.

#### LOUISIANA STATE REPORT.

I have no relics to present to Council from my State and have only to report that I have done what I could to inculcate a love for and reverence for the Father of his country by sending, as usual, the annual report of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union to all of our local newspapers and to each of our State and City libraries. To each new public school I have given a lithograph of Gilbert Stuart's Washington, with the Andrew Reed memorial, and was much gratified this year by two boys from one school asking for a memorial they could have for their own room. To such schools as have brick buildings, I have given ivy from the Tomb of Washington, where his sacred ashes are interred and are in the care and keeping of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

IDA A. RICHARDSON,  
Vice Regent for Louisiana.

#### MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent, Miss Longfellow, regrets not being able to attend Council and reports having distributed Mount Vernon reports in her State.

(Note, by Secretary.)

#### MARYLAND STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent has the pleasure of reporting several interesting gifts to Mount Vernon since the meeting of the last Council:

Mrs. Charles Washburn of Baltimore presents a chair that belonged to General Washington; another of the same set is in

the Colonial Dames museum at the Van Cortlandt Mansion in New York.

Through Mr. Charles Goldsborough six silver tea spoons, engraved with the Washington crest, formerly the property of the late Vice Regent for Maryland, Mrs. George R. Goldsborough, who inherited them from Mrs. Washington: A memorandum found among her papers indicated that they were for Mount Vernon.

Miss Dandridge presents an interesting old book that belonged to Bartholomew Dandridge, nephew of Mrs. Washington and private secretary to General Washington.

Mrs. E. S. Beall and Miss Mary Winn present an old engraving of Washington's family on the porch at Arlington in original frame.

On the 22d of February, 1908, at a meeting of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter, D. A. R., the Vice Regent spoke of the work of the Association and presented a post card view of Mount Vernon—to each member as a souvenir of the day.

Reports have been distributed to libraries and individuals, as usual.

Respectfully submitted:

FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS,

Vice Regent for Maryland.

#### MICHIGAN STATE REPORT.

The letter from the Secretary of the Detroit Mount Vernon Society to the Vice Regent for Michigan, announcing the annual contributions of the Society to the work of the Association, was written with regret that the contribution—fifty dollars—was less than the Society usually gives. The circumstances in the history of the Society that supplies the Vice Regent with funds, and which has been so active and generous in the past, were unusual during the past year. The death of the President, Mrs. Chittenden, was followed by a sad bereavement in the family of her successor, Mrs. Arthur Parker, so that the entertainment usually given on the twenty-second of February was abandoned, and the contribution was made simply from the membership fees. The Society has done fine work for seventeen years, and we can only be glad that it proves itself unfailing even under stress of circumstances.

The Vice Regent for Michigan has made an expenditure of \$42.68 for expenses, attending the boxing and drayage in Glasgow, and express from New York to Mount Vernon, of a picture, supposed to be a portrait of George Washington, which was hanging in the Town House at Glasgow. A report of this picture will be submitted to Council by the Committee on Inspection of Relics.

Reports distributed as usual. The Vice Regent contributes four hundred dollars towards the purchase of the Washington-Ball Bible.

Respectfully submitted:

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,

Vice Regent for Michigan.

### MINNESOTA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Minnesota has done no work in her State during the past year, but she is happy to report the annual donation of ten dollars from the Society of Colonial Dames of America in Minnesota; also a gift of ten dollars has been received from the Distaff Chapter, D. A. R., St. Paul, Minnesota. These donations I wish to add to the fund for the purchase of the Washington Bible.

Respectfully submitted:

REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,  
Vice Regent for Minnesota.

### MISSISSIPPI STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Mississippi reports many interested inquiries about the Mount Vernon Association.

Little seems to have been known in her State about the work here, due, presumably, to the fact that there has been no representation on the board for many years.

The appointment of the present Vice Regent seems to have revived interest and the reports distributed have been gratefully received.

The Vice Regent desired to obtain some seedling trees to distribute to several of the schools of her State, but owing to a serious and prolonged illness she was unable to give this attention at the proper season of the year.

Effort has been made to obtain something of historical interest to add to the collection here, but Mississippi being but ninety years a state has proved a very discouraging field for this research.

For the Library the Vice Regent desires to offer a copy of the "Seven Ages of Washington."

Respectfully submitted:

FRANCES JONES RICKS,  
Vice Regent for Mississippi.

### MISSOURI STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Missouri reports a gift to Mount Vernon of fifteen hundred dollars, to aid in the purchase of the Washington Bible, or, should that prove inadvisable, to be reserved for some other valuable relic.

Respectfully submitted:

CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM,  
Vice Regent for Missouri.

### NEBRASKA STATE REPORT.

The interest in Mount Vernon in the western part of our country seems to be increasing, but the lack of information as to the methods by which the property was acquired, not only in the



west, but the country over, is deplorable. Desiring to give information on the subject locally, I accepted the invitation of the Ladies' Club of Omaha and read a paper on Washington's Birthday in which I gave a history of Mount Vernon, quoting largely from the excellent paper prepared by Vice Regent Hudson several years ago. There was a large audience of women, and on urgent invitation, General Manderson addressed those present and one of the auditors stenographically reported what he said. The interest in the subject seemed so great that the addresses were printed and largely distributed. Newspapers commented upon the subject and the Omaha Bee made the following editorial comment:

**"Home of Our Presidents.**

The home of President McKinley, in Canton, Ohio, has been sold for \$20,000.00. Monuments costing many times that sum have been erected to the memory of McKinley. It seems very hard for Americans to save the homes of their dead presidents. Mount Vernon is about the only one that has been preserved.—New York Herald.

Neither the Congress nor the men of America are entitled to any credit for the preservation of the home of President Washington at Mount Vernon. After the immediate descendants of the first president had allowed the famous Washington plantation to deteriorate until it was almost worthless, one loyal woman of South Carolina started a movement looking to its rescue and restoration. Efforts to induce the State of Virginia to buy the property failed and the women formed a national association, secured title to the property and for nearly half a century have used the proceeds from entrance fees to the Home to buy Washington's furniture and to restore it as nearly as possible to its condition when occupied by the first president. Congress has been as slow as the State of Virginia to take any interest in the title to the property, and the fact that it has been preserved at all is a tribute to patriotic American women."

The "Commoner," published at Lincoln, Nebraska, with Honorable William Jennings Bryan as Editor, published the Vice Regent's address in full and with it the following comment:

**"Mount Vernon.**

The ignorance in regard to Mount Vernon, the home of Washington, is deplorable and information concerning it should be given to grown folks as well as to children. It is not, we dare say, generally known that the women of America bought Mount Vernon in 1858—just fifty years ago—and have restored and maintained it ever since without a penny from the United States or from any State. This great accomplishment is strong evidence of woman's administrative and executive ability, and the men of America should give recognition and acknowledgement to the great

fact. In order to give the readers of The Commoner some idea of the work accomplished by these patriotic women, The Commoner reproduces an address made recently in the City of Omaha by Mrs. Charles F. Manderson. Mrs. Manderson is Vice Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association."

**"The Home of Washington.**

Elsewhere in this issue will be found an address delivered by Mrs. Charles F. Manderson, of Omaha, Vice Regent of the Mount Vernon Association. This address should be carefully read, because it tells briefly of the work done by women of the country to preserve Mount Vernon, the home of Washington. This has been a magnificent work, prosecuted under discouraging conditions but persevered in by patriotic hands and hearts that naturally associate 'home' with ideas of patriotism. It was only natural that the good women of this association should consider the home of Washington as the best memorial of the Father of his Country. The history of the association is full of interest—as full of interest as it has been full of work and struggle."

The Commoner has a circulation throughout the United States of several hundred thousand.

In view of the manifest ignorance throughout the country on the important subject of the acquisition and care of Mount Vernon, the Vice Regent for Nebraska suggests that proper steps be taken to acquaint the public with the history.

Respectfully submitted:

MRS. CHARLES F. MANDERSON,  
Vice Regent for Nebraska.

**NEW JERSEY STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for New Jersey reports a continued interest in Mount Vernon throughout her State. Many persons have visited there during the year and have returned full of enthusiasm for the work of the Association and for the courtesy of the Superintendent. As a mark of their appreciation the following donations have been made:

From the Boudinot Chapter, D. A. R., in Elizabeth..	\$10.00	
From Mrs. E. G. Putnam.....	10.00	
From Mrs. M. T. Payne .....	10.00	
From Mrs. Mary S. Clark.....	5.00	
From Friends of the Association .....	15.00	\$50.00

This sum was appropriated towards the purchase of the Washington Bible.

Respectfully submitted:

HELEN F. CONOVER,  
Vice Regent for New Jersey.

**NEW YORK STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for New York has very little to report. A very charming excursion was made from Washington in September

when Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, the Bishop of Massachusetts, and Dr. Huntington, of Grace Church, planted trees at Mount Vernon. Through the kindness of the President of the Electric road the party was sent to Mount Vernon in his car.

I have taken much interest in the grounds outside of the estate, had trees planted bordering the path to the north gate, and after much effort feel rewarded by a most attractive station at the North entrance to Mount Vernon.

Respectfully submitted:

AMY TOWNSEND,  
Vice Regent for New York.

#### OHIO STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Ohio has distributed the reports of Mount Vernon for 1906-1907 among individuals, historical societies, libraries and universities, and has many times loaned the historical sketch of Miss Cunningham. She has made one address on Mount Vernon and has sent curtains for the music room.

Respectfully submitted.

ALICE KEY DANDRIDGE IRWIN,  
Vice Regent for Ohio.

#### OREGON STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Oregon reports that on account of ill health and absence from her State little has been done with the exception of the distribution of reports to the Library Association of Portland, Oregon, to private individuals who were already interested and to others whose interest it was hoped to arouse.

Respectfully submitted:

MARY F. FAILING,  
Vice Regent for Oregon.

#### RHODE ISLAND STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent attended Council but made no report this year.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for South Carolina has distributed memorials and reports. She has made an effort to have the schools (public as well as private) keep the character of Washington and the sacred duty of honoring this great man, before the minds of scholars as an exemplar and ideal.

The flowers sent from Mount Vernon to the Tomb of the Founder of the Association for the purchase of the sacred spot were greatly appreciated. The simplicity of Miss Cunningham's tomb appeals to all.

Respectfully submitted:

ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,  
Vice Regent for South Carolina.

### TEXAS STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Texas regrets that during the past year she has been unable to do any work for Mount Vernon.

Respectfully submitted:

FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
Vice Regent for Texas.

### VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Virginia reports the gift of a Washington mahogany washstand from Miss Mary Custis Lee. This washstand is placed in General Washington's dressing room.

The Vice Regent has provided a folding couch, two screens and portieres for use in whatever room shall be given her for a sleeping apartment during Councils.

Respectfully submitted:

EMMA R. BALL,  
Vice Regent for Virginia.

### WASHINGTON STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for the State of Washington has very little to report, this being her first year as a member of the Association. But already much interest is manifested in the State in regard to the successful work which is being accomplished at the Home of George Washington. The reports which were sent me were distributed to the State University at Seattle, the City Library and State Library at Olympia, and to those who had written asking me for information about the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Respectfully submitted:

ELIZA F. LEARY,  
Vice Regent for Washington.

### WEST VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for West Virginia has to report the offer of a very old and interesting piece of needlework; also, of a Jersey cow from a fine, well-known herd.

These offers of gifts, with the distribution of all the reports of 1907 and some copies of the Life of Ann Pamela Cunningham, constitute her State report for this year.

Respectfully submitted:

SARAH P. VAN RENSSELAER,  
Vice Regent for West Virginia.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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To the Regent and Vice Regents of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Ladies:

Before entering upon my rather prosaic report for the past year permit me to express, on behalf of all the employees, their deep regret because of the death of the Vice-Regents for North Carolina and Maine, the two members having to their credit the longest service in your Association. When the sad tidings reached us I immediately reported the facts to the Regent, lowered the flag in their honor, and sent the best floral offerings our greenhouse afforded—these formalities being all in my power to bestow. After so many years of official acquaintance with these talented Ladies I shall, personally feel their loss very keenly.

The past twelve months constitute the "Banner Year" for Mount Vernon, in point of the number of visitors. Owing to the Jamestown Exposition excursionists from every State of the Union, and from over the seas, were attracted to Washington, and incidentally to Mount Vernon.

Between May 1, and October 31, our gate records totaled 115,443 visitors while, for the entire year, I have the pleasure to announce the unprecedented number of 159,057. Besides, there were several complimentary parties received as "Guests of the Nation," distinguished foreigners with their suites and escorts of courtesy—most of them brought on Government vessels. These were not included in our numerical record because they were admitted free.

Following the visit of the Duke of Abruzzi (which occurred when Council was in session) came General Kuroki and Admiral Ijuin—noted Japanese; Admiral Thierry, commander of the French squadron; Captain Baron Van Asbeck, representing the Dutch Navy; Details of officers respectively from the British, German, Italian and Japanese men-of-war at Hampton Roads; President Amador, of Panama.

President Roosevelt, with his wife and daughter, the Postmaster General and Captain Fitzhugh Lee, made a trip here on horseback and I entertained them at luncheon.

At other times we had the Delegates to the Pan American Peace Conference; Delegates from Masonic Lodges of Alexandria and Fredericksburg; Washington Birthday Association, of Alexandria, and many other organizations of lesser prominence.

Nearly all these special parties brought handsome floral tributes to the memory of Washington.

I particularly wish you Ladies could have witnessed the cere-

monial when General Kuroki and Admiral Ijuin placed wreaths in the Tomb.

Never have I witnessed such exhibition of reverence as their silent but deeply impressive manner betokened. The demeanor of these distinguished foreigners might not have been so noticeable were it not that such degree of sentiment among our own people, if it exists, has never been shown.

### MANSION.

Fortunate it was that the strengthening of the Mansion was attended to before all these crowds of excursionists arrived. The old structure withstood the strain as otherwise it could not have done. Since your last meeting I have gone further with ferreting out and replacing important timbers found to be defective. The joists and flooring of the Music Room and Dining Room had to be entirely renewed, and the original surface-color reproduced by wood-stains. To secure first class material of the dimensions required to simulate the old floor we had to send to Mississippi. When possible to obtain more of this special edge-grain flooring it is advisable, in my judgment, to continue like repairs.

The walls and ceilings of the bedrooms furnished by Wisconsin and Maine were disfigured by ancient cracks and had to be carefully pointed and resurfaced.

In the Library the old panels were very much out of shape and needed extensive correction before this room was repainted.

The woodwork of the passageways and main hall was retouched to hide discolorations incident to age and wear.

In painting the four outside doors of the Mansion we renewed the color they have borne for many years. We discovered evidence of their having been, at one time, green, but to make such a radical change I preferred to await your further investigation and instruction.

### MANSION AND OTHER REPAIRS.

The chimneys of the Mansion and other buildings present a better appearance since changing from the solid color to recut joints.

According to directions the greatly needed repairs in the Office were effected by renewing defective plaster and painting the ceiling, walls and woodwork. My dining room was calcimined and the wood trimmings painted.

Frost action on the soft stone facade of the Old Tomb necessitated its repointing.

The summer house joists, sills and floor required complete renovation, after which the whole structure was painted.

The greenhouses were repaired, reglazed and painted.

The seed houses were reshingled.

Faults in the roofs of Mansion and the gate-house were corrected.

Stall-floors in the horse stable were relaid.

Landing steps and rail at wharf were strengthened.

Besides, there were miscellaneous repairs, the mention of which will presently appear.

#### QUARTERS FOR EMPLOYEES.

At last Council the subject of providing better accommodations for our regular employes was given favorable consideration and an appropriation of \$3,000 was made on the basis of my tentative estimate that four frame cottages could be built for that sum. As an excuse for my error in calculation I will say that I based my figures on work we had done here some years ago, and did not make sufficient allowance for subsequent increase in price of material and labor.

After drawing up plans for a simple five-room frame cottage reliable contractors were invited to submit bids for the construction of four such houses. The only party who responded placed the price at \$1,500 apiece.

This being out of the question I figured on purchasing the material and employing skilled laborers to do the work. Finally we reduced the closely estimated cost to \$900. When I submitted this to the Regent she advised me to proceed and build all four cottages. This has been accomplished at the total cost of \$3,527.83.

These little cottages follow the simple form of original Mount Vernon buildings. They are located on the site chosen by your special committee, are entirely hidden from sight from the Mansion, and yet near enough for convenience. They are supplied with water for service and fire protection from our newly installed pumping plant; have proper drainage and outhouses, and are duly included in our list of property insured.

In order that the employes may be quickly summoned in emergency the Regent authorized me to establish a private telephone connection between the office and new quarters.

The surrounding ground, separated into yards, has been graded and is reached by a newly-cut road and bridge.

An old cabin which stood on this site has been moved further along the ridge where it will be made useful.

#### HOUSEKEEPERS COTTAGE.

In accordance with a decision of Council two years ago I have now moved the frame dwelling, occupied by the Vickers family, to a less conspicuous position, and partly screened it from

view by good size cedars. To help the comfort of this building we added a front porch and storeroom, repaired the plastering and painted the exterior.

#### IMPROVED WATER SERVICE.

An accomplishment of great importance was the improvement of our water service. Within a concrete vault at the artesian well we have installed a Mietz & Weiss six-horse-power oil-engine which drives a Gould triplex pump, having capacity of fifty gallons per minute. A new three inch galvanized-iron service-main is laid from the pumping station and extends to the elevated tanks at the greenhouse, a distance of about 900 feet. This new plant works with most pleasing efficiency and, in addition to its increase of power, has the advantage of far greater economy in operation than the obsolete steam apparatus we have so long depended on.

By an arrangement authorized by the Regent the Railroad Company has been permitted to connect their pipes for supplying their new station outside our North gate with our service main near the greenhouse. They have installed in our engine room, at their own cost, a seven-horse power motor, connecting same with our pump, thus enabling us, by the free use of their power, to keep our tanks constantly filled. As the electric current from this car line is an exceedingly variable quantity and therefore not always dependable, we keep our oil engine in readiness for instant use. Should, for any reason, this arrangement with the Railroad Company prove unsatisfactory to us I have their written agreement to remove their motor and discontinue the service.

By proper connections, and valve control, we can now apply this new power direct to our fire service in case of need. The two-inch main has been further extended so that the new buildings have the advantage of the greater flow.

#### TOMB REPAIRS.

At last Council it was concluded that something should be done to diminish the very glaring color of the Tomb brickwork which, long before I came to Mount Vernon, had been painted too bright a red. I was directed, for this special work, to employ an expert from Philadelphia who had been successful in some noted restorations there. This Mr. Black came at my request and made preliminary examination. Later he sent one of his best men, a "specialist," he called him, to experiment with acids on the brickwork and endeavor to simulate the appearance of old bricks. For several days he labored with the problem ineffectually. He did succeed in removing much of the paint, but only to find that the original color of these home-made bricks was quite as light as the paint itself. He wanted to paint the front "artistically," (he



said), to copy old bricks, but this I would not take the responsibility of permitting, for two reasons, viz: it would be impossible to hide the fact that it was "artificial," and more over the application of paint would necessitate the removal of all the ivy, which has already advanced so satisfactorily in growth as to insure a complete covering of the front in a short time. So we simply applied linseed oil to all the exposed surfaces, which treatment considerably darkened the bricks. No further remedy has yet developed.

The stated periods for decorating the Tomb were duly observed—May 30th, when the President sent a wreath; July 4th, Popular contribution of flowers; December 14th, Delegates from Masonic Lodges of Alexandria and Fredericksburg brought memorial emblems; February 22nd, Washington Birthday Association, of Alexandria, floral wreath and Galax leaves sent by Mr. W. R. Savage, of North Carolina.

#### BOAT CHANNEL.

Your attention last year was called to the subject of deepening the channel approach to our wharf. The government engineer in charge of Potomac River improvements had reported adversely to the proposition of Government continuance of the work, giving as his reasons, 1st, that Mount Vernon is not a port of commercial importance, and 2nd, that the use of said channel and wharf is not open to the public but is controlled exclusively by one boat company. By direction of the Regent I laid before the Board of Engineers, by whom this report was reviewed, a full statement of facts sustaining our contention that the care of this channel should be borne by the Government as heretofore. As a result of this the Board of Engineers then recommended that the Government make the preliminary survey, and it was done. Following this the Chief of Engineers reported to Congress the character and probable cost of the proposed work but no further action has been taken.

Mr. Carlin, who represents this district in Congress, is enlisted in our interest but assures me the River and Harbor bills cannot pass at this session.

#### WHARF.

In connection with the subject of the boat channel I will state here that the daily trips of the Macalester were discontinued November 23rd, and resumed the 9th day of March, during which interval the customary overhauling of machinery was attended to and the boat repainted throughout.

While our wharf was idle I arranged, by approval of the Regent, to reconstruct the system of fender-piles which protect the wharf cribbing from damaging contact when the boat comes

alongside. Such was the difficulty of securing the proper timber for this the contractors could not carry out their agreement until just before the present Council convened.

#### GROUNDS.

Carrying out the wishes of the Committee on Grounds the summer house was put in order, as already mentioned. The facilities for watering lawns and plants were increased. A new horse-lawn-mower was purchased. The garden fences were painted. Box bushes were planted in front of the windows of office and kitchen. Rooted ivy was set out along the walls of both gardens, at School House and other points. Clematis and Virginia Creeper is now rooted around the old well-house, behind the quarters. The row of maples back of (N. Y.) quarters lacked one of being complete—this was supplied. The re-delineation of the Bowling Green had to be postponed. The proposition to offer seedling oaks to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia was not carried into effect because the object for which they were intended was abandoned.

The periodical doctoring of the old trees, many of which are of historic interest, was intrusted to a specialist, Prof. J. T. Withers, of Jersey City. He brought a force of skilled climbers and did excellent work in pruning, filling cavities and otherwise checking decay. These men were engaged here for over a month and gave attention to all the most important trees near the buildings.

While busily occupied with this difficult task one of Prof. Withers best men fell from a tree near the kitchen-garden gate, struck the top of the picket fence and sustained such injuries that he died the same day, poor fellow.

This unfortunate accident so demoralized the other Italians most of them refused to continue the hazardous climbing.

The approach, too, of unseasonable weather caused the suspension of further work among the trees. If it be your pleasure I would suggest that it be resumed early next autumn.

As desired by the Committee I procured a number of young cedars and placed them at intervals along the approach to our gate from the Railway station.

The row of weeping willows bordering the river was extended.

Worthy of mention is a list of the trees planted here last year by parties of note:

A poplar, by the Duke of Abruzzi.

A beech, by Admiral Thierry.

An oak, by Captain Baron Van Asbeck.

A mulberry, by Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan.

An elm, by Bishop Lawrence, of Massachusetts.

Those planted by our foreign guests did not survive, because lifted at wrong season. I have, this spring, replaced them in

accordance with my promise to the distinguished gentlemen that I would do so if the original plantings failed.

Our carriage roads suffered much last summer from the unusually heavy rainstorms. Washouts were numerous.

From Tomb to barn red-clay gravel was used (dug from the estate) and similar improvement followed to the stretch of road between culverts No. 1 and No. 3, on way to the West Lodge Gate.

For the garden walks a fine grade of river-washed gravel was obtained and applied, greatly enhancing the neat appearance in general effect.

The turf surrounding the buildings was, of course, much damaged by the incessant tramping of crowds last summer. Resuscitating the injured sod was not in every instance feasible, so portions of it had to be relaid.

Where much shade prevails it is quite useless to expect grass to thrive, hence the substitution of myrtle when procurable.

To cover embankments bordering roads native honeysuckle was transplanted.

Torrential rains developed needs for additional, or lateral, conduits in the deer park to protect that steep slope from washing.

#### KITCHEN GARDEN.

The care of the old "garden of utility" was rewarded by gratifying results. A marked improvement to the stiff-clay soil was achieved by plowing in quantities of leaves raked from the lawns. The rotting of these leaves so incorporated proved of great benefit. The successful growth of vegetables enabled us to can for winter use quantities of peas, beans, tomatoes, etcetera.

The fig bushes though of vigorous growth, and protected every winter against frost, do not always yield matured fruit; it depends upon the season.

Last summer, for example, the fruitage was more abundant than usual but did not reach perfection. A like failure was noticeable with the grapes.

As to the so-called "wall fruits" I am satisfied, after several years' trial, that they never will amount to much, chiefly because of reflected heat from the brick walls against which they are trained.

#### FARM.

The farm work has had customary attention. We made an excellent crop of pea hay from ten acres. Nineteen acres in corn yielded fairly well, though cut a trifle early because of threatened frost. Small lots of rye, red-top hay and potatoes were secured.

Thirty-five tons of agricultural lime was applied to the fields most needing it, and the barn-yard manure was likewise spread.

During the winter great quantities of leaves were raked from the woods and packed with river muck for compost.

Farming operations were handicapped by the death of one of our best horses and the crippling of another. Being therefore solely dependent on the mule team I was forced, this spring, to have some of the plowing done by contract.

In the lot adjoining the East lawn crimson clover made an excellent stand. I had sowed this especially that you might have the pleasure of seeing the crop in full bloom, but the spring development was uncommonly advanced and this beautiful effect of color you have missed.

To greatly benefit the soil, and with profit in view, I plan to plow this crop under and plant potatoes.

Our experience with whippoorwill peas has proved so satisfactory, not only as a crop but a land improver, I should advise more extensive use of them here.

We have arranged for sowing about twenty acres this season. Eighteen acres are already planted in corn.

#### LIVE STOCK.

Because of the fear of disease among our cattle, the Committee, at last Council, concluded we had best discontinue that branch for a time until the stables and stock could be renovated. In consequence I sold off all the animals, save one, as opportunity offered.

For our supply of milk we have depended on a neighboring dairy.

We have two fine coach horses, a colt (now being trained), and two mules.

The lame horse (one of the farm team) was sold.

I have to report an increase of eleven Shropshire lambs this spring.

After harvesting the crop of pea-hay last autumn the deer were given the run of that field that they might glean the shattered grain. In the adjacent woods and swamp they found plentiful browsing during the several weeks they were at liberty. This change in their diet was of great benefit.

#### COAL.

The purchase of our winter supply of coal was arranged for early last summer when prices were low. Having it shipped direct from the mines to our gate in unbroken car-loads lessened the expense.

The cost, delivered here, was as follows:

White Ash Anthracite .....	\$6.03 per ton.
Bituminous .....	\$3.48 per ton.

To accommodate some of our employes seven and a half tons of coal were sold to them at about cost price.

#### ICE.

In February we succeeded in storing fifty-eight wagon loads of excellent quality of ice cut from a stream two miles distant.

#### MISCELLANEOUS WORK.

Among items of miscellaneous character which claimed our attention were as follows: Calcimining in Spinning House.

Painting the Library porch, ceilings of Colonnades, cornice of East Portico, woodwork of Kitchen, Dairy, Well-house, cornice of Quarters, iron gates of Tomb and Coach House, metal roofs of Library porch and passageways at North Lodge Gate.

Whitewashing fences, cabins, hose-room, stables and West Lodge Gate.

Incidentally there was grubbing of sprouts, weeding of walks and gutters, cutting briars, burning brush, repairing implements, furniture, etc.

#### EMPLOYES.

There were a few changes in the list of regular employes. Cleveland and Holland resigned and were replaced by C. H. Thomas and William Miller.

Annie Fife, the cook, was succeeded by Lizzie Humphreys.

The day laborers modestly requested an increase of their wages from \$1.25 per day to \$1.50. This latter rate was being paid other laborers in this section and we were forced to follow suit or lose good men. Four of the best men were allowed the increase. Two, whose duties were lighter, continued at former rate.

#### GIFTS.

We are indebted for the following gifts:

A genuine mahogany washstand from Miss Mary Custis Lee.  
Silver mouth-piece for hunting horn from Judge Pearce, of Annapolis.

Two flags from the McFadden Co.

Substantial Christmas remembrance to each of the employes from the Vice-Regent for California.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

There are several matters I would call to your attention which seem to me as essential.

**Storage Facilities for Coal.**—This to be accomplished by constructing a commodious vault adjoining the boiler room. None of this will appear above ground.

A new cow barn on different site, and removal of the silo thereto.

**Reclamation of Swamp Near Wharf.**—This to be achieved when dredging of the boat channel can be arranged for—the mud to be pumped to fill swamp.

The principal repairs I should like to point out as demanding attention to this year are:

Reconstruction of brick steps leading to the old tomb.

Resetting portions of coping on deer-park wall.

Resetting steps and coping on West side of Mansion.

Expert treatment of old trees (other than those gone over last year).

The Library Porch, and balustrade of East Portico need repairs.

These tentative suggestions are expected to be modified after inspection of property by the several committees.

In conclusion I beg to reiterate my great appreciation of the confidence you have reposed in me, and of the consideration with which you have treated my humble efforts. After twenty-three years of unremitting endeavor in your service I can only say that there has been no abatement in my intense purpose to faithfully perform my duties and to do everything in my power for the betterment of Mount Vernon while holding strictly to the injunction of the founder of the Association that all visible features shall preserve the simplicity desired by Washington himself.

I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your very obedient servant,

HARRISON H. DODGE,  
Resident Secretary and Superintendent.

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#### CONDENSED STATEMENT.

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For the year ending April 30th, 1908, the financial statement of the Superintendent gives

Visitors by Boat .....	43,671
Visitors by Railway .....	115,263
Wharf Entrances .....	123
Total Revenue .....	\$45,738.97
Total Expenditures .....	\$35,039.58

## GARDENER'S REPORT.

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The following report of the Gardener was accepted by Council:

Ladies: In submitting my report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1908, I am delighted to say that the green house necessarily shared in the general prosperity in consequence of the increased travel for the year. Three hundred dollars increase with our small plant and limited facilities seems to me encouraging.

Receipts .....	\$942.70
Expenditures .....	17.20
Cash to Supt. ....	\$925.50

Everything has prospered during the year both under glass and out of doors. The old hedge never looked better and is a constant source of admiration to visitors. I have planted numbers of hollyhock, foxglove, larkspur and perennial candytuft, also phlox, which must eventually add to the attractiveness of our garden.

I sincerely hope you may be able to commend the condition of the garden, for I assure you no effort has been spared to meet your approval.

FRANKLIN A WHELAN.

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## REPORT OF SECRETARY FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 14, 1908

Prepared and had printed:

50 copies of the Minutes, 1907.....77 pages.

800 copies of Annual Reports.....53 pages.

Sent to members of Council three hundred copies of reports and one copy each of the minutes.

Distributed three hundred and fifty copies of annual reports to state historical societies, libraries, and individuals, the remaining copies being sent to Mount Vernon.

### CASH ACCOUNT.

Cost of printing minutes and reports.....	\$90.00
By cheque from Regent to Printer .....	\$90.00

## OFFICE EXPENSES.

Receipts: By cheque from Regent .....	\$50.00
Balance on hand, 1907 .....	11.12
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Total .....	\$61.12
Expenditures: Expressage, postage, typewriting.....	\$49.30
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Balance on hand .....	\$11.32

Respectfully submitted.

JENNIE M. WARD,  
Secretary of Council.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

## MANSION COMMITTEE.

The Mansion Committee begs leave to submit the following suggestions:

The resetting of stone steps and coping, affected by frost, on the west side of Mansion.

Repairing balustrade and library porch.

That the cracks in plastering of some rooms be corrected.

That the metal nosing of stairs leading to the third story be renewed.

That the hearthstone in dining room be properly reset.

The Committee would suggest that the outside doors of the Mansion be painted dark green, which, upon investigation, is found to have been the original color.

The windows in rear of greenhouse should be puttied and painted and the steps painted in rear of New York quarters.

An underground vault for storage of coal is recommended.

The condition of the roof of the Mansion is such as to require reshingling in the near future, and it would be advisable to purchase, when obtainable, the proper kind of shingles.

Owing to the continued disintegration of the corner stone, the Committee asks advice of Council as to the manner of its preservation.

REBECCA B. FLANDRAU, Chairman.  
ALICE HILL,  
ELLEN W. HARRISON.  
FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS.

Report accepted.



### FURNITURE COMMITTEE.

The Furniture Committee has gone over the house and finds it in good order.

The following suggestions are submitted:

In Mrs. Washington's room: silk covers on washstand, bureau or chest of drawers to be removed. Fender cleaned. Table used for pitchers during Council to be painted.

Cushion on music stool to be covered with yellow.

Clock and candelabra in family dining room on mantlepiece to be labelled as having belonged to Lafayette.

Two chairs, once the property of Elias Boudinot to be taken from the Committee room and placed in the Lafayette room.

HELEN F. CONOVER.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,

CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM.

HARRIET C. COMEGYS.

AMY TOWNSEND.

LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON.

ELLEN W. HARRISON.

Report accepted.

### THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The Library Committee have taken down the books and dusted them, and find them in good condition. Some changes have been made in order to place all the books that belonged to Washington in a part of the book case where they can be seen by the visitors.

A copy of Lossing's book, "Mt. Vernon and Its Association," has been presented by Mrs. Richardson; and an interesting fac simile of "Washington's Account Book," by Mrs. Hudson.

HELEN F. CONOVER,

IDA A. RICHARDSON,

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,

LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON.

Report accepted.

### COMMITTEE ON THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

The Committee reports that they find the Garden and its contents in better condition than ever before. The young man in charge of the garden thoroughly understands his business. The Committee suggests that the Garden be again divided into square vegetable beds, with a few small fruit trees, as shown in the old print presented to the Association yesterday. Your Committee

also suggests planting young grape vines, in time to take the place of the old ones there at present.

ELLEN W. HARRISON, Chairman,  
HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,  
SARAH P. VAN RENSSELAER,  
LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON.

Report accepted.

#### TOMB COMMITTEE.

This Committee finds the Tomb much improved by the application of oil, which has softened the effect of the painted bricks.

The English ivy has now a good start and in a year or two will almost cover the front of the Tomb. The Committee observed that the Nellie Custis monument needs straightening.

The Committee approves the recommendations of the Superintendent regarding the brick steps in front of the old Tomb.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,  
FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
EMMA R. BALL,  
FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS,  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.

Report accepted.

#### RECORD COMMITTEE.

For the purpose of filing among the Records the Vice Regent for Maryland has placed in the hands of your Committee the letter written to her by Mr. Charles Goldsborough, who has sent, through Mrs. Rogers, six Washington tea spoons which were left to this Association by our late Vice Regent for Maryland, Mrs. George R. Goldsborough. Letters of value received from the Vice Regent for Connecticut, dating from 1873 to 1899, have been filed since last Council.

In response to the request of Dr. Thomas Nelson Page, such publications in our possession as will aid him in writing a booklet on Mount Vernon have been forwarded to him through the Committee appointed at this Council to confer with Dr. Page.

In the opinion of your Committee the letters received from time to time by the Secretaries of Councils and the Superintendents which relate to Mount Vernon or the affairs of the Association should be handed to the Record Committee and filed.

Respectfully submitted:

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, Chairman.  
SUSAN E. J. HUDSON.  
JENNIE MEEKER WARD.

Report accepted.

### COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS, SHRUBS AND TREES.

Your Committee would respectfully submit the following recommendations:

The construction of a coal bin contiguous to the engine room cost \$800.00.

Re-set the old brick steps at the Old Tomb.

Repair brick walls of the Deer Park.

Repair board fences on lane and barnyard.

That experts be employed to examine and take measures to preserve some old trees that show signs of decay, \$500.00.

That the road to the West Lodge be repaired and its course restored to the line of the old road, \$100.00.

To plant yellow roses near the North Lodge gate.

To cover with loam the roots of the trees that are exposed above ground.

To plant English ivy on the trellis at the North Lodge gate.

To substitute English ivy for the ampelopsis now covering some of the walls and buildings, the change being made gradually.

That the Superintendent be allowed to assist the road commissioners in keeping the approach to Mount Vernon in order.

SUSAN E. J. HUDSON, Acting Chairman,  
IDA A. RICHARDSON,  
CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM,  
AMY TOWNSEND.

Report accepted.

### GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE.

The condition of the garden and greenhouses is such as to receive only commendation from our Committee and we find very little to criticise or suggest. The flower beds are like brilliant mosaics on a large scale, and the grouping of peonies, irises and lilies is extremely effective.

We would suggest that more yellow roses—the Harrisonii—be planted, and that lavender irises be added to the varieties now in the beds.

It is recommended that the green houses be repainted and repaired when necessary.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,  
AMY TOWNSEND,  
FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,  
SARAH P. VAN RENSSELAER.

Report accepted.

### GUIDE BOOK COMMITTEE.

The old edition of the Guide Book being exhausted it has become necessary to have a new edition edited, and suggestions are in order for any changes that it might be desirable to make.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
REBECCA B. FLANDRAU.

Report accepted.

### FARM COMMITTEE.

The Farm Committee reports that eighteen acres have been planted in corn, and about twenty in peas. The crimson clover will be plowed under and potatoes planted.

There is a need of fertilizer and lime, which will require an appropriation of five hundred dollars, with a manure spreader, which will cost \$135.00.

The purchase of cattle this year is thought inadvisable, as there is not proper stable room or pasture for a new herd.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,  
MARGARETTA M. BARRET,  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,  
FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS.

Report accepted.

### RELIC CASE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee has gone through each of the six cases containing relics. We found all in place and in order; they have been carefully cleaned and replaced.

From the Vice Regent of Maryland we have received six small tea spoons, with Washington's crest on them. They are a gift from Mrs. Goldsborough's nephew.

IDA A. RICHARDSON, Chairman.  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.

Report accepted.

### POST CARD COMMITTEE.

The Committee has to report, after considering the subject of providing attractive cards, the following numbers of cards ordered through Messrs. Leet Brothers, of Washington.

8,000 sets of plain or sepla cards, at 12½ cents.

2,000 sets hand colored cards at 15 cents.

These cards were supplied and, because of the demand, there were a few sets in addition.

The following is the actual account:

8,182 sets plain cards at 12½ cents.....	\$1,022.75
2,210 colored cards at 15 cents .....	331.50
	<hr/>
Total cost .....	\$1,354.25

By the Superintendent's statement the sale of cards during the year amounted to \$2,352.49, showing net profits to the Association of \$998.24.

AMY TOWNSEND, Chairman,  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

Report accepted.

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE on THE INVESTIGATION OF RELICS.

This Committee has received numerous letters offering Washington relics to the Association, but the Committee has decided to concentrate effort and interest on these objects of especial value:

1. The Washington Bible.
2. The Glasgow Portrait of Washington.

These objects we recommend for especial consideration. The Washington Bible, for which \$15,000 was demanded last year, can now be purchased for \$5,500, and the Committee recommends its purchase.

The Glasgow picture, supposed to be a portrait of George Washington, is sent as a loan to the Association by the Lord Provost, and Town Council of Glasgow, through Mr. R. W. Austin, the American Consul at Glasgow. The interesting story of this portrait is told in the following letter from Mr. Austin to the State Department:

## AMERICAN CONSULATE,

Glasgow, Scotland, May 9, 1907.

Subject: Supposed painting of General Washington.

The Honorable,

Assistant Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir: I was present in the Mechanic's Hall, Glasgow, on Friday, March 1st, and heard a lecture delivered by Thomas Leyton, Esquire, Curator, People's Palace, on Glasgow Virginians and Marylanders. In the course of the lecture Mr. Leyton produced a number of American and Glasgow pictures and in the list was one called the "Unknown," which represented a young military officer in continental uniform apparently about twenty-one years of age. The lecturer stated that the original of this picture, life size and painted in oil, was in the People's Palace, Glasgow, and that its traditional history was as follows. That it had been removed to its present place from the Tolbooth, or Town House, where it hung for many years, and that originally it was the property of the Honorable Robert Dinwiddie, of Glasgow, at one time Colonial Governor of Virginia. That it was removed from the Dinwiddie residence in consequence of Washington having joined the American Revolutionists. That during the administration of the Colony of

Virginia Governor Dinwiddie was placed in a position of much anxiety by the encroachment of the French and their Indian allies, and the difficult task of finding some type of man to negotiate with the Indians and to make such propositions to the French as to check their advance until some British war preparations could be got ready, had to be faced by him. He selected George Washington, then about twenty-one years of age, and, as an American historian has written, history records no more extraordinary choice or one more completely justified. It was Governor Dinwiddie who might be said to have first set the eyes of the world upon George Washington. With two very talented portrait painters then, and until their deaths, in America, (John Smibert and John Watson, both of Edinburg, and the fathers of American art), it was a most natural desire that Dinwiddie should wish to take back to Glasgow a portrait of his great protege. Smibert painted a portrait of Washington's sister, and both Smibert and Watson were of the Vandyck school and made independent fortunes as portrait painters. The People's Palace portrait favors the Vandyck, not the English school. The tree behind the figure has morning glories climbing up the trunk—not very English-looking but very typical of America. The dress of the figure is the garb of a Major in the British Army in 1775, and of the time Governor Dinwiddie invested Washington with the rank of Major in the British Army. After Dinwiddie's return to Glasgow he would not like to have the portrait in his house as Washington had joined the Revolution, and it is surmised that on this account it was removed to the Tolbooth.

A short time after hearing this lecture I visited the People's Palace with several Americans and had an opportunity to examine the picture of the "Unknown" and found the description of it by Mr. Leyton to be correct.

Believing the subject to be of importance I herewith enclose two photographs of the picture which can be used in comparison and verification with any early pictures of Washington. If the matter does not interest the Department, I would respectfully suggest that it be referred to the Regents of the Mount Vernon Association.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. AUSTIN, Consul.

Respectfully submitted:

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Chairman.  
 GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,  
 EMMA R. BALL,  
 ELLEN W. HARRISON.

Report accepted.

Following the report of the Committee on the Investigation of Relics, Mrs. Harrison, Vice Regent for Pennsylvania, introduced a resolution as follows:

**RESOLVED**, That the picture from Glasgow, known as the "Unknown" be called "The Supposed Portrait of Washington" until it be established that it is the portrait of our Hero.

Seconded and carried.

It was then moved by the Vice Regent for West Virginia, Mrs. Van Rensselaer, and seconded by the Vice Regent for Michigan, Mrs. Rathbone, that a vote of thanks be given to the United States Consul at Glasgow, Mr. R. W. Austin, for his successful efforts to obtain a portrait which has been hanging in the People's Palace at Glasgow, there styled the "Unknown" and supposed to be that of George Washington at the age of twenty-one; also, that letters of thanks be written to the Lord Provost and Town Council of the City of Glasgow, this motion to be spread upon the minutes and a copy transmitted by the Corresponding Secretary to Mr. Austin.

Carried.

The following letter was accordingly prepared and sent by the Corresponding Secretary:

Mount Vernon-on-the-Potomac,  
Fairfax County, Virginia.

May 20, 1908.

Mr. R. W. Austin,  
U. S. Consul, Glasgow, Scotland.

Dear Sir:

I have been commanded to convey to you the thanks of the Regent and Vice Regents for your great kindness in using all your influence and skill in securing the loan for their Association of the Washington portrait. I herewith transmit the Resolution passed this day in the Council relative to your kindness:

**RESOLUTION.**

**RESOLVED**, That a vote of thanks be sent to Mr. R. W. Austin for his great interest in the Home of Washington, and the efficient manner in which he conducted the negotiations which ended in the happy transfer of the long unknown portrait of Washington from an alien shore to the home of his childhood, manhood and death, where its romantic story arouses great interest and enthusiasm.

Passed by acclamation at the Council of the Regent and Vice Regents of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union this date.

ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,  
Corresponding Secretary, Mt. V. L. A.

The following extracts from a letter to the Regent from Mrs. William W. Vaughan, 354 Beacon Street, Boston, were then read to Council:

My dear Mrs. Townsend:

I have just been in Washington and going down to Mount Vernon I am led to write and ask if you would be good enough to lay before the Regents the following suggestion, which occurred to me on looking at the fire place in the banquet hall given by Mr. Samuel Vaughn, my husband's great great grandfather. Would the Regents be willing to have the account of the giving of the fire place (the glass of which is now broken) re-written and then well framed in a wooden frame and with a foot that would raise it within reading distance, as it is now so low as to be almost illegible \* \* \* \* . Also if the paper sign "Banquet Hall" were removed from the grate it would be easier for attention to be drawn to the explanation about the fire place. Of course all the expense of reframing and making the stand should be mine, if the Regents would kindly allow the change to be made.

I also heard that it was very much wished that some of General Washington's books now owned by the Boston Atheneum could be lent to Mount Vernon, and I thought it possible that I might interest the proprietors, of whom I am one, to petition the Trustees to send a few, and I will shortly see what can be done in that direction. May I hear from you about the Regents' decision.

Trusting this is not asking too much, I am,

Very sincerely,

ELLEN PARKMAN VAUGHAN,

(Mrs. William W. Vaughan).

After consideration of the above letter by Council the following letter was directed to be sent Mrs. Vaughan by the Corresponding Secretary:

Dear Mrs. Vaughan:

Your letter to the Regent has just been read before the Regent and Vice Regents in Council assembled and they have instructed me to write and thank you very much for your offer. They will be very pleased to have the account of the giving of the marble fire place by your distinguished ancestor to General Washington renewed, that is, a fresh glass placed over it, and the passe partout binding renewed. The taste of this is so excellent that they desire not to change it in any way but are very much pleased that their attention has been called to the fact that the information was not easily read where it was, and they have decided to place it



beside the marble mantle above the chair moulding, thereby placing it within easy reach of all eyes.

The card with sign "Banquet Hall" will be removed at once.

The matter about accepting a possible loan of some of General Washington's books, owned by the Boston Atheneum will be referred to the Library Committee.

Thanking you for your kind interest, I remain,

Very sincerely,

ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,

Corresponding Secretary, Mt. V. L. A.

Hon. Claude A. Swanson, Governor of Virginia, appointed the following gentlemen on the Board of Visitors:

Hon. A. H. Sands, Richmond, Virginia.

Hon. Walter T. Oliver, Fairfax, Virginia.

Hon. George L. Fletcher, Warrenton, Virginia.

Hon. John Orr Daniel, Loudoun, Virginia.

Hon. David S. Forbes, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

These gentlemen and the Governor were invited by the Regent and Vice Regents to visit Mount Vernon on Tuesday, May nineteenth. Governor Swanson, Mr. Sands and Mr. Forbes came, and were received by the Regent and Vice Regents in the Family Dining Room and a light luncheon was served, after which the Governor and the members of the Board made a tour of the grounds, Tomb and Mansion.

During the afternoon session the Governor and the Board came before Council and expressed through the Governor to the Regent and Vice Regents their pleasure and satisfaction at the condition of everything; the Governor spoke in eloquent terms of his gratification at the beautiful condition of the Estate.

A prayer book was presented to Mount Vernon by Mr. George Thomas of Philadelphia, through Mrs. Harrison, Vice Regent for Pennsylvania, which had been purchased at one of the sales of personal property from the estates of George and Martha Washington. In the catalogue description appears the following note:

A certificate of authenticity will be given the purchaser by Mr. J. R. C. Lewis, who inherited it from the Martha Washington estate.

The following printed statement also appears in the book:

Washington: Martha Washington's Prayer Book.

Book of Common Prayer in use in the  
Protestant Episcopal Church  
of America,

Together with the Psalms of David.

Printed by

Hugh Gaine, 1793.

This interesting memento has the signature of Eleanor Parke Lewis (Custis), Washington's adopted daughter. It has also the inscription in the handwriting of Lorenzo Lewis (her son). "For M. E. A. Lewis. This prayer book was read by her great grandmother, Mrs. M. Washington from 1789 to 1802."

A letter of thanks was sent to Mr. George Thomas, of Philadelphia, for his generous gift of the prayer book used at Mount Vernon by Martha Washington.

The Vice Regent for South Carolina, Mrs. Pringle, offered a resolution of thanks to Mr. Owen Wister for the copy of his book presented to the Library of the Association, and for his appreciative reference to the Mount Vernon Association in the book.

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The Misses Winslow, of Massachusetts, offered a memorial pitcher, with a portrait of Washington and the American Eagle, with tears pouring from its eyes, among other designs thereon. The pitcher was made by the order of Matthew Jones, great uncle of the Misses Winslow. It was made in France, where he happened to be when the news of the death of Washington was received, only three of them being made.

It was resolved that the Regent and Vice Regents accept with pleasure the very interesting and unique pitcher thus donated by the Misses Winslow and that they be informed accordingly.

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The Secretary of Councils herewith tenders her resignation of the office of Secretary, held since 1899, to take effect at the close of this year.

She will attend to the publication of the Minutes and Reports

this year of 1908, but begs you will elect her successor this Council that she may be ready to begin the work next spring.

Very respectfully,

JENNIE M. WARD,

Vice Regent for Kansas.

An invitation having been received from Miss Sharpe for the Regent and Vice Regents to afternoon tea, Tuesday, May 22, at Woodlawn (the former home of Nellie Custis), the following ladies accepted, and at 4 p. m. drove over to Woodlawn. Though the clouds were dark and there were sounds of distant thunder, they greatly enjoyed the afternoon:

Mrs. Townsend, Regent,  
 Mrs. Rathbone, Vice Regent, Michigan.  
 Mrs. Ball, Vice Regent, Virginia.  
 Mrs. Maxey, Vice Regent, Texas.  
 Mrs. Barret, Vice Regent, Kentucky.  
 Miss Comegys, Vice Regent, Delaware.  
 Mrs. Rogers, Vice Regent, Maryland.  
 Mrs. Leary, Vice Regent, Washington.  
 Miss Failing, Vice Regent, Oregon.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### FINANCE.

Mrs. Ball, chairman; Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Wilder.

### MANSION.

Mrs. Flandrau, chairman; Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Ricks.

### FURNITURE.

Mrs. Conover, chairman; Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Graham, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Ball.

### LIBRARY.

Miss Longfellow, chairman; Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Johnson, Miss Failing.

#### **GROUND S AND SHRUBS.**

**Mrs. Leiter, chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Brown.**

#### **GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE.**

**Mrs. Barnes, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Leiter, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Maxey, Miss Comegys, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.**

#### **KITCHEN GARDEN.**

**Mrs. Harrison, chairman; Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Miss Comegys, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Johnston.**

#### **FARM.**

**Mrs. Hearst, chairman; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Rogers.**

#### **TOMB.**

**Mrs. Graham, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Rogers.**

#### **RELICS.**

**Mrs. Richardson, chairman; Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Graham.**

#### **RECORD.**

**Miss Comegys, chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Ward.**

#### **BY-LAWS.**

**Mrs. Richardson, chairman; Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Brown.**

#### **INDEX.**

**Mrs. Flandrau, chairman; Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Irwin.**

#### **PARLIAMENTARY RULES.**

**Mrs. Hill, chairman; Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Leary.**

#### **PRESS.**

**Miss Comegys, chairman; Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Ricks.**

#### **GUIDE BOOK.**

**Mrs. Graham, chairman; Miss Longfellow, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Flandrau.**

### POSTAL CARDS.

Miss Townsend, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Graham, Miss Failing.

### INVESTIGATION OF WASHINGTON RELICS.

Mrs. Rathbone, chairman; Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Brown.

Several of the ladies attended services at old Pohick on Sunday, always an interesting event and to those present for the first time very impressive.

On Thursday, the 21st, the Regent and Vice Regents to the number of seven accepted the courtesy of Miss Sharpe to luncheon at Woodlawn, the home of Nellie Custis.

A wreath of flowers was sent by Council to the grave of Mrs. Walker at Spray, N. Carolina.

Vice Regent for South Carolina offered a resolution of thanks to Owen Wister for the copy of his book, "The Seven Ages of Washington."

During the absence of the Secretary, whose resignation had been reluctantly accepted by Council, the Regent nominated Mrs. Rogers, Vice Regent for Maryland, as Secretary of Councils.

Mrs. Rogers was unanimously elected. (Recorded by Miss Comegys, the Vice Regent for Delaware.)

It was moved by Mrs. Richardson, Vice Regent, for Louisiana, and seconded by the Vice Regent for Delaware, Miss Comegys, that in accepting the resignation of Mrs. Ward, as Secretary of Councils, that the Association tender its grateful thanks for her faithful and untiring work and the excellent manner in which it has invariably been accomplished.

The Vice Regent for South Carolina, Mrs. Pringle, offered a resolution of thanks to the Regent for her untiring devotion to

the affairs of the Association and her justice and fidelity in administering them.

The resolution was passed by a rising vote.

No further business being before Council of 1908 the Regent declared it adjourned until the second Thursday in May, 1909.

JENNIE M. WARD,  
Vice Regent for Kansas,  
Secretary of Councils.

## CLOSE OF FIRST HALF CENTURY

This year rounds out the first half century of the work of the Association.

It has been an exceedingly prosperous one. The largest number of visitors in its history, over 150,000, have passed through the grounds and Mansion and paused at the Tomb.

The largest gathering of members of the Association, twenty-five ladies, met in Council, representing 24 states.

There are thirty Vice Regents. The total number appointed since its organization is 101. The Endowment Fund has reached \$100,000, a goal eagerly sought after by the early workers.

The contrast is striking from that day in March, 1858, when a few ladies met Miss Cunningham in Richmond to sign the Contract and accept the Charter, which would make them keepers of the estate with all its responsibilities. Five years of persistent effort had already passed. Years of doubt and discouragement; of difficulties conquered, prejudices overcome, of triumph at last. The money had been raised for the payment by what seemed almost miraculous means.

But they had to face a future, of heavy expenditures with no known income to meet them. The Charter allowed a 25c rate of admission to the grounds to be charged. With this slender thread of trust in the patriotism of their fellow countrymen they ventured on the tremendous obligation of repairing, restoring and keeping the Home and Tomb.

And with a deep sense of this responsibility the Regent and Vice Regents have carried on this work to the present time. No consideration of private interest has kept them from Council.

Tunnels have been constructed, which carry off the water from the subterranean springs, which threatened the whole river

front. An entire Sea Wall has been constructed by the munificence of the Vice Regent of California. A swamp has been drained, a wharf and shelter house built. And every year matters of importance, require thought and care, which are given unstintedly by the Regent and Committees.

Another such a prosperous year as the Jamestown Exposition of last year gave cannot be expected soon, but it is hoped that interest in the Home of the "Greatest of Good men and Best of Great Men" will never die out in the land he made free!

# THE FAREWELL ADDRESS

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## OF THE FOUNDER AND FIRST REGENT OF THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION

**T**O the Council of the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association of June, 1875. Ladies: It was my intention, as well as my duty, to have met you at this time and conformed in person to the legal requisition accompanying a resignation so important as mine; but Providence does not permit.

But in parting, I feel it due to you as to me; to the responsibilities I solemnly assumed, which were so important in their results; to those you have taken upon yourselves; to say a few words as to those responsibilities or duties, laid down in the beginning of our work, not to be lightly regarded, for they were pledges to future generations as well as to ours. The minds and hearts which conceived the rescue of the home of Washington; of the completion of a worthy "tribute" to public integrity and private virtue; an expression of the gratitude due and felt by a country destined to act such an important part in the drama of the world; conceived it with all the reverence felt in older regions for the resting-places of their honored dead; where only pious hands are permitted to



be in "charge," so as to have them carried down to admiring ages in the same conditions as when left.

Such was the pledge made to the American heart when an appeal was made to it to save the home and tomb of Washington, the father of his country, from all change, whether by law or desecration. Such, to the last owner of Mount Vernon, ere he was willing to permit it to pass from his hands. Such to the legislature of his mother state, ere she gave us legal rights over it. Such are we bound to keep. Our honor is concerned, as well as our intelligence and legal obligations. The mansion and the grounds around it should be religiously guarded from change—should be kept as Washington left them.

Ladies, the home of Washington is in your charge; see to it that you keep it the home of Washington. Let no irreverent hand change it; no vandal hands desecrate it with the fingers of progress! Those who go to the home in which he lived and died, wish to see in what he lived and died. Let one spot in this grand country of ours be saved from change! Upon you rests this duty.

When the Centennial comes, bringing with it its thousands from the ends of the earth, to whom the home of Washington will be the place of places in our country, let them see that, though we slay our forests, remove our dead, pull down our churches, remove from home to home, till the hearthstone seems to have no resting place in America; let them see that we do know how to care for the home of our Hero! Farewell!

Ladies, I return to your hands the office so long held—since December 2nd, 1853.

Respectfully,

June 1st, 1874.

ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM.

## COMPLETE LIST OF ALL OFFICERS OF MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION

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Founder and First Regent 1853-1873,  
Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, South Carolina,  
Resigned 1873, Died 1874.

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### VICE REGENTS APPOINTED 1858.

1. Mrs. Anna Cora Ogden Ritchie, resigned 1866.....Virginia
2. Mrs. Alice Dickinson, resigned 1859.....North Carolina
3. Mrs. Philoclea Edgeworth Eve, died 1889.....Georgia
4. Mrs. Octavia Walton Le Vert, died 1866.....Mississippi
6. Mrs. Margaretta S. Morse, resigned 1873; died 1895, Louisiana
7. Mrs. Mary Rutledge Fogg, died——.....Tennessee
8. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Walton, resigned 1860.....Missouri
9. Miss Mary Morris Hamilton, died 1876.....New York
10. Mrs. Louisa Ingersoll Greenough, resigned 1865.....  
.....Massachusetts
11. Mrs. Abba Isabella Little, resigned 1863.....Maine
12. Mrs. Catherine Willis Murat, died 1867.....Florida
13. Mrs. Mary Boott Goodrich, resigned 1861.....Connecticut
14. Miss Phebe Ann Ogden, died 1867.....New Jersey
15. Mrs. Alice Key Pendleton, resigned 1863; died 1885....Ohio
16. Mrs. Abby Wheaton Chace, died 1892.....Rhode Island
17. Mrs. Jane Maria Van Antwerp, died——.....Iowa
18. Mrs. Margaret Ann Comegys, died 1888.....Delaware
19. Mrs. Hannah Blake Farnsworth, died 1879.....Michigan
20. Mrs. Martha Mitchell, died 1902.....Wisconsin
22. Mrs. Rosa Vertner Johnson, died——.....Kentucky

### 1859.

23. Mrs. Elizabeth Willard Barry, died 1884.....Illinois
24. Mrs. Sarah J. Sibley, died 1869.....Minnesota
25. Mrs. Mary Pepperell Jarvis Cutts, resigned 1878...Vermont
26. Miss Lily Lytle Macalester, died 1891.....Pennsylvania
27. Mrs. Magdalen G. Blanding, resigned 1883.....California
28. Mrs. Harriet V. Fitch, died 1880.....Indiana
29. Mrs. Sarah H. Johnson, died 1866.....Arkansas

30. Mrs. Anne Lucas Hunt, died 1878.....Missouri  
 31. Mrs. Letitia Harper Walker, died 1908.....North Carolina

## 1860.

32. Mrs. Mary Chestnut, died 1861.....South Carolina  
 33. Mrs. Margaret J. M. Sweat, died 1908.....Maine  
 34. Miss Emily L. Harper, died 1891.....Maryland  
 35. Mrs. Lucy H. Pickens, died August 1899.....South Carolina  
 36. Mrs. M. E. Hickman, resigned 1867.....Nevada  
 37. Mrs. M. A. Stearns, resigned 1872.....New Hampshire  
 38. Mrs. Emily R. M. Hewson, resigned 1866.....Ohio  
 39. Miss Ella Hutchins, resigned 1866.....Texas

## 1867.

40. Mrs. Janet M. C. Riggs, resigned 1868...District of Columbia  
 41. Mrs. Maria Brooks, resigned 1876.....New York  
 42. Mrs. Matilda W. Emory, resigned 1873...District of Columbia  
 43. Mrs. Nancy Wade Halsted, died 1891.....New Jersey

## 1868.

44. Mrs. Nannie C. Yulee, died 1884.....Florida

## 1870.

45. Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson.....Connecticut  
 46. Mrs. Betsey C. Mason, died 1873.....Virginia  
 47. Mrs. A. P. Dillon, resigned 1874; died 1898.....Iowa  
 48. Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, died 1898.....West Virginia

## 1872.

49. Mrs. William Balfour, resigned 1875.....Mississippi  
 50. Mrs. Mary T. Barnes .....District of Columbia  
 51. Mrs. David Urquhart, resigned 1876.....Louisiana  
 52. Miss Mary E. Maverick, resigned 1873.....Texas  
 53. Mrs. C. L. Scott, resigned 1877.....Arkansas

This was the last appointment of Miss Cunningham, First Regent.

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MRS. LILY M. BERGHMAN.

Second Regent, 1874-1891.

Died 1891.

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Vice Regents Appointed 1874.

54. Mrs. Emma Reed Ball.....Virginia  
 55. Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, died 1883.....Tennessee

## 1875.

56. Mrs. Lily L. Broadwell, died 1890. ....Ohio  
 57. Mrs. John P. Jones .....Nevada

## 1876.

58. Mrs. Jennie Meeker Ward.....Kansas  
 59. Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend.....New York

## 1878.

60. Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, resigned 1880.....Vermont

## 1879.

61. Miss Alice Longfellow .....Massachusetts  
 62. Mrs. Robert Campbell, died 1882.....Missouri

## 1880.

63. Mrs. Ida A. Richardson .....Louisiana

## 1882.

64. Mrs. Ella S. Herbert, died 1884.....Alabama

## 1885.

65. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Adams Rathbone.....Michigan  
 66. Mrs. Mary T. Leiter .....Illinois  
 67. Mrs. Janet De Kay King, died 1896.....Vermont  
 68. Mrs. Eliza Woodward, died 1897.....Kentucky

## 1888.

69. Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys .....Delaware  
 70. Mrs. Fanny Gilchrist Baker, died 1901.....Florida

## 1889.

71. Mrs. Alice Hill .....Colorado  
 72. Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau .....Minnesota  
 73. Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst .....California

## 1890.

74. Mrs. A. R. Winder, died 1906, May.....New Hampshire

## 1891.

75. Mrs. Georgia Page Wilder.....Georgia  
This was the last nomination of Mrs. Lily Macalester Laugh-  
ton, second Regent (Madame Berghman).

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MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND.  
Third Regent.

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## Vice Regents Appointed 1893.

76. Mrs. George R. Goldsborough, resigned 1904, died 1906  
..... Maryland  
77. Mrs. J. Dundas Lippincott, died 1894.....Pennsylvania  
78. Miss Mary Lloyd Pendleton, resigned 1897.....Ohio  
79. Mrs. Philip Schuyler, resigned 1891.....New York  
80. Mrs. Christine Blair Graham .....Missouri  
81. Mrs. Francis S. Conover.....New Jersey  
82. Mrs. Mary Polk Yeatman Webb .....Tennessee

## 1894.

83. Miss Lella Herbert, died 1897.....Alabama

## 1895.

84. Mrs. Robert H. Clarkson, resigned 1900; died 1902...Nebraska  
85. Mrs. William Ames, died 1904.....Rhode Island  
86. Miss Amy Townsend .....New York

## 1896.

87. Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison.....Pennsylvania  
88. Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey .....Texas

## 1898.

89. Mrs. James E. Campbell, resigned 1902.....Ohio

## 1900.

90. Mrs. R. D. Johnston .....Alabama  
91. Mrs. C. F. Manderson .....Nebraska  
92. Mrs. E. Van Rensselaer .....West Virginia

## 1901.

- 93. Mrs. J. J. Pringle .....South Carolina
- 94. Mrs. Wm. F. Barret .....Kentucky
- 95. Mrs. Chas. Denby, died Dec. 26, 1906.....Indiana

## 1905.

- 96. Mrs. Fannie J. D. Rogers.....Maryland
- 97. Mrs. Frances J. Ricks .....Mississippi
- 98. Mrs. Alice Key Irwin.....Ohio

## 1907.

- 99. Miss Mary F. Failing.....Oregon
- 100. Mrs. Eliza F. Leary.....Washington
- 101. Mrs. J. Carter Brown .....Rhode Island



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FEB 28 1913

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association**  
**of the Union**

**1909**





1909

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

*Mount Vernon Ladies' Association  
of the Union*

ANNUAL COUNCIL

HELD AT

MOUNT VERNON-ON-THE-POTOMAC  
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA.

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*May 13 to 22, 1909*



**OFFICERS**  
**OF THE**  
**MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION**  
**OF THE UNION**

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**HONORARY REGENT.**

**MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND, New York.**

**REGENT.**

**MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, "The Green," Dover, Del.**

**VICE REGENTS.**

**MRS. SUSAN E. J. HUDSON, Connecticut.**  
**MRS. MARY T. BARNES, District of Columbia.**  
**MRS. CHARLES B. BALL, Virginia.**  
**MRS. JENNIE M. WARD, Kansas.**  
**MISS ALICE M. LONGFELLOW, Massachusetts.**  
**MRS. IDA A. RICHARDSON, Louisiana.**  
**MRS. ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Michigan.**  
**MRS. MARY T. LEITER, Illinois.**  
**MRS. REBECCA B. FLANDRAU, Minnesota.**  
**MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, Delaware.**  
**MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST, California.**  
**MRS. J. J. WILDER, Georgia.**  
**MRS. CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM, Missouri.**  
**MRS. FRANCIS S. CONOVER, New Jersey.**  
**MRS. THOMAS SHAPARD WEBB, SR., Tennessee.**  
**MISS AMY TOWNSEND, New York.**  
**MRS. CHARLES CUSTIS HARRISON, Pennsylvania.**  
**MRS. THOMAS S. MAXEY, Texas.**

MRS. ROBERT D. JOHNSTON, Alabama.  
 MRS. CHARLES F. MANDERSON, Nebraska.  
 MRS. EUGENE VAN RENSSELAER, West Virginia.  
 MRS. JOHN JULIUS PRINGLE, South Carolina.  
 MRS. WILLIAM F. BARRET, Kentucky.  
 MRS. HENRY W. ROGERS, Maryland.  
 MRS. LEWIS W. IRWIN, Ohio.  
 MRS. FRANCES J. RICKS, Mississippi.  
 MISS MARY F. FAILING, Oregon.  
 MRS. ELIZA F. LEARY, Washington.  
 MRS. J. CARTER BROWN, Rhode Island.  
 MRS. A. B. ANDREWS, North Carolina.

**RECORDING SECRETARY.**

MRS. HENRY W. ROGERS, Rider P. O., Baltimore Co., Md.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.**

MRS. JOHN JULIUS PRINGLE, "Chicora Wood," Plantersville,  
 Georgetown Co., S. C.

**TREASURER.**

MR. E. FRANCIS RIGGS, Washington, D. C.

**RESIDENT SUPERINTENDENT.**

MR. HARRISON H. DODGE, Mt. Vernon-on-Potomac, Va.

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT.**

MR. JAMES YOUNG, Mt. Vernon-on-Potomac, Va.

**RESIDENT ENGINEER.**

MR. JAMES R. ARCHER, Mt. Vernon-on-Potomac, Va.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER, Supreme Court, Washington, D. C.  
 MR. LEWIS CASS LEDYARD, 2 East 87th St., New York City, N. Y.

1909

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION

OF THE UNION

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The Board of Regents of the Association met in Annual Council on Thursday, May 13, 1909. Twenty-two ladies being present.

Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend, Regent, New York.  
Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson, Vice Regent, Connecticut.  
Mrs. Charles B. Ball, Vice Regent, Virginia.  
Mrs. Jennie M. Ward, Vice Regent, Kansas.  
Mrs. Ida A. Richardson, Vice Regent, Louisiana.  
Mrs. Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone, Vice Regent, Michigan.  
Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys, Vice Regent, Delaware.  
Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau, Vice Regent, Minnesota.  
Mrs. J. J. Wilder, Vice Regent, Georgia.  
Mrs. Christine Blair Graham, Vice Regent, Missouri.  
Mrs. Francis S. Conover, Vice Regent, New Jersey.  
Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey, Vice Regent, Texas.  
Mrs. Robert D. Johnston, Vice Regent, Alabama.  
Mrs. Charles F. Manderson, Vice Regent, Nebraska.  
Mrs. John Julius Pringle, Vice Regent, South Carolina.  
Mrs. William F. Barret, Vice Regent, Kentucky.  
Mrs. Henry W. Rogers, Vice Regent, Maryland.  
Mrs. Lewis W. Irwin, Vice Regent, Ohio.  
Mrs. Frances J. Ricks, Vice Regent, Mississippi.  
Miss Mary F. Failing, Vice Regent, Oregon.  
Mrs. Eliza F. Leary, Vice Regent, Washington.  
Mrs. J. Carter Brown, Vice Regent, Rhode Island.

## REGENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

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DEAR LADIES:

Mount Vernon, this beloved home of Washington, seems dearer to the hearts of each of us as the years pass by, and we see it growing more perfect in its entirety under our loving, watchful care.

This happy time in May, when we assemble to spend together the few days in friendship and work for the preservation of this sacred spot, is saddened as our gaze falls upon the vacant chair of our beloved and valued sister, Mrs. Hill, who returned to us at our last Council, after an absence of several years, looking in such perfect health that we little dreamed the hand of death was so near to her.

No words can fully express our sorrow, but our loss is her rich gain. Mrs. Hudson, who admired her as we all did, will give us an outline of her life work.

This last year has been a most prosperous year, owing to the inauguration of our new President, which brought enormous crowds and enabled us to meet our unusually heavy expenses in connection with the dredging of our channel.

From the time of our adjournment last May, our Superintendent has been unremitting in his efforts to bring this gigantic work of clearing the channel to a successful completion in every way.

Owing to the throngs of visitors expected at Mount Vernon during Inauguration, our Superintendent suggested that he be authorized to open the gates from 9 A. M. until 5 P. M., employing extra guards for the occasion. During the month of March no less than twenty thousand visitors passed through our grounds to do honor to the memory of our great hero.

Before disbanding last year, the subject of dredging our channel was fully discussed, and, after consulting our lawyer, we were able to proceed with the detailed arrangements for the accomplishment of the work. In November the Governor of Maryland kindly acceded to our request to begin the undertaking, and it was only in March this vast enterprise was completed. I have left out all details of this work, as our Superintendent will give you most interesting information in relation to its progress.

I think all the ladies of the various committees will find their directions carried out to their entire satisfaction. Our lawns and trees are in excellent condition. The successful work of Mr. Withers, in restoring some of our historic trees, is very noticeable.

The Garden and Greenhouse Committee report that they found everything in such excellent order that there was little to suggest which might add to its perfection.

The kitchen gardens are flourishing also, and show the care and attention of those in charge. We miss for the time being the pretty sight of our sheep and lambs on the lawn, which will be restored, however, when we have better grazing ground later on.

As usual, on the Fourth of July, the Tomb of our beloved Washington was decorated and the two flags were gratefully received from the McFadden Company.

In this month a delegation from Nashville, Tenn., planted a hickory tree from "The Hermitage." A German society from New York also placed a floral tribute on the Tomb, and all were loud in their praises of beautiful Mount Vernon.

In August the purchase of "The Bible" was completed, Mr. Dodge going to New York for it in person, as the firm of Dodd, Mead & Company would not take upon themselves the responsibility of delivering it. It was suggested that it be placed in the double-locked case in the Library.

Our gifts include, from Mr. Charles A. Munn, of New York, a copy of his book entitled "Three Types of Washington, Portraits," and from Mrs. Victor V. Muller, of Mason and Dixon, Pa., a unique relic in the shape of a small box made of a piece of Washington's coffin, lined with wood from the tree under which William Penn held his first treaty with the Indians (1682), and also an inlaid ivory disc containing a very small lock of Washington's hair.

Mr. Sylvester Pope, of New York, on a recent visit to Mount Vernon, was much interested in our Library. He found, however, that while it contained many valuable works, we did not possess a copy of an old volume on Washington which he had owned for many years. It is a work published in Washington, D. C., in 1844, entitled "Monuments of General George Washington's Patriotism." It contains facsimiles of his public accounts during the Revolutionary War and other valuable documents connected with his military command. On returning home he wrote to the Regent and asked that it might be accepted as a gift.

You will be much pleased to hear a few months ago our Association received from Mr. Pierpont Morgan, through Miss Townsend, Vice Regent for New York, a superb gift—the sword which was worn by Washington in 1783, on the occasion when he resigned command of the Continental Army at Annapolis. This is the sword, to buy which the House of Representatives once contemplated an appropriation of \$20,000. This famous weapon was bought by Mr. Pier-



pont Morgan from Miss Virginia Tayloe Lewis, of Baltimore, in whose family it had been for several generations.

We have received this year an unusual number of letters questioning the genuineness of the relics purchased by us, and even of those donated in the early days when the loan of the bed by Mrs. General Lee was accepted. It seemed best to refute in print these false accusations, and, for that purpose, Mr. Dodge waited until his friend, Mr. William Elroy Curtis, a well-known and competent writer, returned from Europe. After our Superintendent explained the situation, an article appeared in the Washington papers which, we hope, has silenced criticism for a period at least.

After much correspondence with our Superintendent, General Custis Lee very kindly signed and sent here his deed of gift, or rather his transfer of his right to certain relics, which, however, we discovered, upon investigation, it is not in his power to give, as there are other members of the family who have a partial right to them at his death. Let us hope that those who succeed General Lee may have the same generous spirit and leave them to us undisturbed.

Mrs. Richardson's suggestion, which was accepted, at last Council, of the copy of Washington's diaries, which are at the Library of Congress, has been partially completed by an expert copyist, and the remainder will be done during the summer months when the fees for such work are much less; also some necessary information was required from Council before going on with the work.

At the time of our separation last Council, nothing had been decided with regard to a suitable and unique badge for the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Again this year we have been obliged to make it very clear to the individuals and public that our Association will receive no visitors here on Sunday and that we grant no special privileges.

Another unusual request came from an aged doctor who had an ardent desire to play upon Washington's flute.

Our thanks are again due to our kind Treasurer, Mr. Riggs, for arranging our finances so that, at the completion of the dredging operation, the second half of our indebtedness was paid at once. Mr. Dodge, who for so many years has had our interests at heart, has proved more than ever equal to the many important duties required of him this last year, the matter of the channel and other questions arising requiring much diplomacy. Mr. Young and Mr. Archer participated in the discussion of many vexing questions, and we feel we have at all times a most efficient staff.

Through the untiring efforts and work of Mr. Whelan the greenhouses and gardens have been brought to such perfection that they now produce quite a revenue.

There has been no sickness among the employees this year and the personnel remains most satisfactory.

Dear ladies, I must crave your indulgence while I speak a few words concerning myself and my long and happy service of eighteen years among you as Regent of this Association of Mount Vernon, which I feel sure means so much in the life and the hearts of each one of us today.

To me it has been not so much a duty and a task as an honor and a labor of love. It has meant so much to me at a time when many interests had gone out of my life forever; it has been with so much joy and patriotic pride that I have watched the growth and development, year after year, of this once small Society, that it is with deep regret that I feel that the moment has come for my withdrawal from any active share in its councils; for the fulfillment and accomplishment of a duty however hard and stern, none the less to be disregarded or ignored.

Ladies, I wish to present to you my resignation from the Regency of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Of my own feeling concerning this step I will not speak, for I know that each one here realizes how truly I have loved and how faithfully endeavored to serve our common cause.

The necessity for this step has been carefully considered, and now that the burden of years grows heavy, I know that the place must be left vacant for a younger woman, who is better able to cope with the problems and perplexities which inevitably attach to this honored trust as Regent.

A few more words I would speak, if I may still claim your patience, of the gratitude and affection I have in my heart for those ladies whose friendship and love have cheered me in success and aided me in difficulties, and though I may no longer be with you in person, yet by the memory of bygone days, and by earnest hopes and prayers for the future of our great work, I shall in spirit still belong to this sisterhood.

JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND.

## MEMORIAL

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IN MEMORIAM.

MRS. ALICE HILL, VICE REGENT FOR COLORADO,  
MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION.

Died July 19th, 1908,

At her residence, Denver, Colorado.

*"Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet, lest we forget."*

"Lest we forget!" It is this sentiment that tempts us to chronicle, as best we may, some of the noble qualities of heart and mind possessed by those of our loved ones who have passed on before us.

But it seems scarce possible to give even a faint outline of the characteristics of so richly endowed a personality as that of our dear friend Mrs. Alice Hill, whose death we are now called upon to accept. How can we adequately express the grief, the irreparable loss thus entailed upon us individually and as an association? It is a loss of so much. Her affection and sympathy went out in full measure to all, high and low; all felt sure of welcome and aid. Her enthusiasm was peculiarly called out by the associations of this historic place, which she loved and worked for as Vice Regent for twenty years. Of Revolutionary descent, she inherited from her ancestor, Nathan Hale, the spirit that dictated his immortal words; with him her only regret seemed to be that she, too, "had but one life to give" for the good of humanity.

Her good works in Denver were immense. There she founded the Kindergarten; there she founded and largely aided in the building of a home for the Young Women's Christian Association, which is now a refuge for all unprotected women. Her patriotic charities were known only to herself. She had the rare gift of great personal attraction that won and held the love and confidence of those with whom she came in contact. All her work gives evidence of her personal touch. She never hesitated to follow the promptings of her heart, which often requires courage. Her mind was one of high culture, enhanced by extensive travel and residence in foreign lands, as well as on her own continent.

Mrs. Hill left us in good health at the close of our last year's session. Shortly after reaching her home, however, symptoms of pneumonia developed, serious complications followed, and then came the summons.

Her good works, her loving nature are the example and guide she leaves us.

"Lest we forget."

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON.

## STATE REPORTS

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### ALABAMA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Alabama has very little of interest to report.

There being no Vice Regent for North Carolina, I distributed all of the reports for that State. The beautiful memorial of Mrs. Walker touched a responsive chord in the hearts of her people, and the demand for copies of the report was so great that the supply was soon exhausted.

An old Mount Vernon flag was given to the Daughters of the American Revolution for their Flag Day celebration. They were deeply interested in the account of the work done by this Association.

Failing to secure the Lafayette candle shades, the check for \$30 was returned to Mr. Dodge.

Respectfully submitted,

LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON,  
Vice Regent for Alabama.

### CALIFORNIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for California reports having distributed Mount Vernon reports in her State.

She contributes \$100 to the work of the Association.

PHOEBE A. HEARST,  
Vice Regent for California.

### COLORADO STATE REPORT.

No report.

### CONNECTICUT STATE REPORT.

The annual reports of the Association have been freely distributed in the State; also, at the urgent request of Mr. Putnam, Librarian of Congress, I presented to the Congressional Library our annual printed reports, including the bound volume containing reports 1858-1895, as well as the unbound issues of 1896-1907, with the pledge of sending hereafter one regular yearly copy of the reports.

To the office building I supplied six pairs of sheets and one dozen table napkins.

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON,  
Vice Regent for Connecticut.

### **DELAWARE STATE REPORT.**

No report.

### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for the District of Columbia sincerely regrets that sickness prevented her attendance at Mount Vernon on the 10th. She has to report the gift of a decanter used by General Washington, donated by Mrs. Buckingham, a niece of Miss Coleman, who liberally assisted in furnishing the District of Columbia room. Please acknowledge the gift to Mrs. Buckingham, with due appreciation of her kindness.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY T. BARNES,

Vice Regent for the District of Columbia

### **GEORGIA STATE REPORT.**

Long illness in her family has prevented any work for Mount Vernon, except to bring again a design for an insignia from Bailey, Banks & Biddle, which she hopes may be considered by the Association.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,

Vice Regent for Georgia.

### **ILLINOIS STATE REPORT.**

My condition of health has prevented my making any effort for Mount Vernon.

A small entertainment netted \$49.43.

The Superintendent, Mr. Dodge, has made a request for some additions to the shrubs on the lawn. Mrs. Marshall Field has kindly sent her check for \$50, and I add my own check for this amount, making the amount \$149.43, which will enable Mr. Dodge, with the appropriation of Council, to do the planting desired.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY LEITER,

Vice Regent for Illinois.

### **KANSAS STATE REPORT.**

Interest in Mount Vernon and its preservation still continues in the State, as manifested by calls for information concerning its history and condition. Requests for material for children's essays and for talks to ladies' clubs are frequently sent to the Vice Regent. In response, have sent the Cunningham pamphlet, the Goldsborough brochure, the typewritten accounts of visits to Mount Vernon in 1798-1840, to several places in and out of the State.

Librarians are asking for data for prize essays so generally in demand.

These, it is hoped, will afford opportunities for obtaining knowledge of the history of the Association and its work, and will develop patriotism in the coming generations.

Many letters were sent in answer to these inquiries.

The Vice Regent had the pleasure of meeting thirty or forty ladies of a nearby city and presenting the patriotic work of the Association in caring for Mount Vernon.

One dollar from the Iola lady to Kansas Room was received.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIE M. WARD,

Vice Regent for Kansas.

#### KENTUCKY STATE REPORT.

I have received for the Kentucky Room at Mount Vernon two small gifts of money, collected on February 22, 1909, one from the Louisville Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the other from a penny collection taken in public schools, one of these being a school for negro children—the first evidence given of their interest in Mount Vernon. This small sum represents great enthusiasm amongst the children, who are being taught to reverence the memory of Washington.

As Vice Regent for Kentucky I also received, on February 22, many postal cards appropriate to the day, with original expressions of patriotic devotion from young children.

I have distributed copies of our reports for 1908, and of the memorial of Miss Cunningham.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGARETTA BARRET,

Vice Regent for Kentucky,

#### LOUISIANA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Louisiana has only to report having sent the Mount Vernon bound report to the papers and libraries. To all the public schools built of brick, ivy from the Tomb of Washington was presented, which was done with ceremony and made an event of.

I have offered also photographs of the equestrian statue of Washington presented to the City of Paris by the children of America, and also the head of the Dinwiddie portrait of Washington when very young.

IDA A. RICHARDSON,

Vice Regent for Louisiana.

### **MARYLAND STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Maryland reports the distribution of reports of the Association to libraries and individuals.

An interesting old counterpane that belonged to Charles Carroll, Barrister, has been presented by Mrs. Beall and Miss Winn.

The Vice Regent has been offered a fine specimen of Holstein cattle from a herd in Frederick County when conditions are favorable to resuming the dairy.

Respectfully submitted,

**FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS,**

Vice Regent for Maryland.

### **MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Massachusetts regrets that continued ill health prevents any active work beyond distributing reports and trying to keep alive the interest in Mount Vernon.

She is happy to send an interesting relic—a seal given by Washington to John Quincy Adams, and bequeathed by him to Dr. Parkman, of Boston.

Respectfully submitted,

**ALICE M. LONGFELLOW,**

Vice Regent for Massachusetts.

A large crowd of visitors having arrived by the boat, a short recess was taken to enable them to pass through the Banquet Hall.

On reassembling the reading of the State reports was resumed.

### **MICHIGAN STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Michigan reports a contribution of \$300 from the Detroit Mount Vernon Society for use at Mount Vernon. With renewed interest and energy the Society entered upon its work in the fall, and decided with enthusiasm to resume its custom of giving an entertainment—a Mount Vernon Tea—on the 22d of February, 1909. The tea was given on the afternoon of Washington's Birthday in a hall at The Pasadena, and a charming musical program furnished the entertainment. There was a sale, also, of flowers, old silver, candles and Mount Vernon picture cards. Every one seemed to enjoy the occasion and to be inspired with much interest in Mount Vernon. The sum contributed will be held in reserve for the purchase of relics.

The reports were distributed as usual.

Respectfully submitted,

**ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,**

Vice Regent for Michigan.

### **MINNESOTA STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Minnesota takes pleasure in reporting the annual donation of \$10 from the Society of Colonial Dames of America in Minnesota, also a gift of \$8.25 from the Northfield Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Minnesota.

REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,  
Vice Regent for Minnesota.

### **MISSISSIPPI STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Mississippi distributed all the reports sent her, and several copies of the Life of Miss Cunningham, which were received with interest.

Some seedling trees and ivy plants were sent from Mount Vernon by request of the Vice Regent to two of the schools in Mississippi, which were much appreciated, and on Washington's Birthday a very interesting celebration was held by the Yazoo City school, an address made by the Superintendent about Mount Vernon, followed by the planting of the trees and ivy by the children.

The Vice Regent has the honor of offering a very interesting bed spread made in 1814-'15 by Mrs. Mary Butler Gilbert Pease, a lineal descendant of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, who was a half-brother of Sir Walter Raleigh. It was the wish of this lady's daughters that this spread should be placed at Mount Vernon, and the executrix of their will, Mrs. Page is making, through me, the proffer of the spread to the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES JONES RICKS,  
Vice Regent for Mississippi.

### **MISSOURI STATE REPORT.**

No report.

### **NEBRASKA STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Nebraska reports that during the last year sickness in her family and absence prevented much attention to matters relating to Mount Vernon. Interest, however, continues unabated, and it is anticipated that it will increase as the public is made aware of what has been done and of the excellent management of Mount Vernon under direction and control of the Association.

The Vice Regent in the performance of the duty devolving upon her as one of the committee appointed a year ago, had correspondence with Dr. Thomas Nelson Page in regard to the article on Mount Vernon which he kindly agreed to prepare, and a short time ago received from him his manuscript, which is a most attractive history of Mount Vernon and Washington's association with his home. This



paper will be submitted to the Council at its present meeting for such action as it may determine to take.

A few patriotic citizens of Omaha have expressed a willingness—indeed, a desire—to pay the cost of having the article illustrated and published in attractive form to be presented to the Association and placed on sale at Mount Vernon.

REBEKAH S. MANDERSON,  
Vice Regent for Nebraska.

#### NEW JERSEY STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for New Jersey has no gift from her State to report this year. She has distributed the reports and done all she could to give information about the work of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Respectfully submitted,  
HELEN F. CONOVER,  
Vice Regent for New Jersey.

#### NEW YORK STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for New York reports the gift of General Washington's sword, presented by Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan. Through his great generosity Mount Vernon now has one of the most interesting relics.

The sword was worn when he resigned command of the army, December 23, 1783; when he was inaugurated first President of the United States, April 30, 1789, and on all subsequent state occasions.

Some years ago \$20,000 was recommended by a committee of the Senate for the purchase of this sword from the great-niece of Washington. Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, in urging the passage of the bill, addressed the United States Senate as follows:

"Take the sword of the Black Prince, and the crown of any king or emperor that ever lived, and place upon it the Kohinoor diamond, and let them be worth countless millions, and they would not have that same historic worth as this simple relic coming from the immortal Washington."

Under General Washington's will this devise was written, with an injunction "not to unsheath for the purpose of shedding blood, except it be for self-defense, or in defense of their native country and its rights, and in the latter case to keep it unsheathed and to prefer falling with it in their hands to the relinquishment thereof. *Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori.*"

Respectfully submitted,  
AMY TOWNSEND,  
Vice Regent for New York.

### OHIO STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Ohio reports the distribution of Mount Vernon reports to the libraries and universities throughout the State, and also the receipt of \$5 from the Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Lima, Ohio.

ALICE D. IRWIN,  
Vice Regent for Ohio.

### OREGON STATE REPORT.

The annual reports for 1908 were distributed throughout the State of Oregon, first to the Library Association of Portland and the State University, then through the Secretary of the State Library Commission to their institutions.

On Washington's Birthday framed photographs of General and Lady Washington, together with views of Mount Vernon, were hung in the children's room of the Library Association of Portland; a lecture on the life of Washington was given and postal card views were distributed to the children present. The Librarian in charge reports so much interest was shown that the same thing will be done the coming year.

I have secured an engraving of Louis XVI, by Bewick, an impression taken before the Reign of Terror and the mutilation of the copper plate, and if it proves, upon the examination of the committee in charge, to be a better and earlier print than the one already framed and hung, I shall be very glad to give it to Mount Vernon.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY F. FAILING,  
Vice Regent for Oregon.

### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Pennsylvania, in submitting her report for 1909, begs to call attention to the fact that her report for 1908 was omitted from the minutes and reports. She therefore wishes to offer again a resolution that the Martha Washington Prayer Book, presented by Mr. George C. Thomas, since deceased; the old print of Mount Vernon, presented by Mrs. Harry Waln Harrison; and the "Seven Ages of Washington," presented by Owen Wister, be accepted by this Council.

The Vice Regent is the custodian of a vase, plate, and cup and saucer, the two last marked "M. W.," sent to Mount Vernon by a gentleman in Philadelphia, who desires his name to remain unknown. All of these articles belonged to the Washingtons.

ELLEN WALN HARRISON,  
Vice Regent for Pennsylvania.

### **RHODE ISLAND STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Rhode Island has to report that literature concerning Mount Vernon was distributed during the year.

New draperies and homespun rugs, woven in Rhode Island, were placed in the Rhode Island room.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNE C. A. BROWN,

Vice Regent for Rhode Island.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.**

South Carolina has nothing to report but the distribution of the reports and the memorials of the founder of the Association to the schools and libraries.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH W. A. PRINGLE,

Vice Regent for South Carolina.

### **TENNESSEE STATE REPORT.**

No report.

### **TEXAS STATE REPORT.**

No report.

### **VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Virginia has no report of work done in her State during the past year. She presents to Council the correspondence concerning relics loaned many years ago by General Custis Lee.

P. O., BURKE, VA., July 30, 1908.

HARRISON H. DODGE, *Superintendent,*

*Mount Vernon, Va.*

DEAR SIR—Your letter of the 28th instant, with enclosed newspaper slip, was received yesterday.

My grandfather, G. W. P. Custis, of Arlington, left by will the Mount Vernon relics to my mother, his daughter, during her life, and to me at her death. The will is on record, I suppose, in the Alexandria County Court House.

The bedstead in question was known at Arlington as the one on which General Washington died. When my mother left Arlington in the spring of 1861 she took the bedstead to Ravensworth, where it remained until Mrs. Ball, the Virginia Vice Regent, requested the loan of it for Mount Vernon.

It was then sent to the furniture factory of the Messrs. Green, Alexandria, Va., to be cleaned and put in good order generally,

thence it was taken to Mount Vernon. Since that time I have not seen it, but suppose that it has been well taken care of.

The Messrs. Green got permission from the proper authorities not long after the close of the war, 1861-'65, to take from Arlington what remained of the furniture and other household articles. The secretary, gilt mirror and two gilt brackets were doubtless taken to Alexandria at that time by the Messrs. Green. Mrs. Ball saw them at the factory and requested that they might go to Mount Vernon with the bedstead. I gave my consent, but informed her that I was not sure that they had originally come from Mount Vernon. I am in no doubt as to the bedstead, however.

I am willing to give you any information I can, but have not the health nor inclination to engage in newspaper controversy.

Very truly yours,

G. W. C. LEE.

P. S.—If you will have a deed prepared for the transfer of my title to the relics at Mount Vernon sent there by my mother and self, I will execute it as soon as practicable. My mother sent to Mount Vernon, I think, the sideboard and harpsichord that originally came from there, and possibly some other things. She had legally no right to dispose of these articles, but could have given away the whole estate of my grandfather—her father—without any objection on my part. I only mention this to avoid possible trouble hereafter.

G. W. C. LEE.

*(Copy of transfer of title above referred to.)*

Know all men by these presents, that I, George Washington Custis Lee, of "Ravensworth," Fairfax County, Virginia, do hereby assign and donate unto the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union all my right, title, interest and estate in and to the following articles, now at Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, Virginia, viz:

The bedstead upon which Washington died.  
One mahogany secretary.  
One gilt frame mirror.  
Two gilt wall brackets.  
One sideboard.  
One harpsichord.

Witness my hand and seal this 18th day of August, 1908.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CUSTIS LEE.

Witness: Samuel Ayres.

*(Copy of certificate of abstract of will.)*

I hereby certify that the following is a true abstract from the will of George Washington Parke Custis on file and of record in my office:

"My daughter, Mary A. R. Lee, has the privilege by this will of dividing my family plate among my grandchildren, but the Mount Vernon plate, altogether and every article that I possess relating to Washington and that came from Mount Vernon, is to remain with my daughter at Arlington House during said daughter's life, and at her death to go to my eldest grandson, George Washington Custis Lee, and to descend from him entire and unchanged to my latest posterity."

Given under my hand this 13th day of August, 1908.

GEORGE H. RUCKER, Clerk, Alexandria Co., Va.

By H. R. THOMAS, D. C.

**WASHINGTON STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for the State of Washington has done considerable work this year. The annual reports of the Association have been sent to the State Library at Olympia, to the Seattle Library, and to schools.

Information concerning Mount Vernon has been given by letters to a number who have asked for it. Nearly one hundred copies of the memorial to Miss Cunningham were given Rainier Chapter, of Seattle; six were given Sacajana Chapter, Olympia, and also to individuals who were greatly interested in the work of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

I have given over four hundred sets of Mount Vernon postal cards to colleges, high schools, seminaries and a few private schools throughout the State of Washington, and am glad to report a great deal of interest is being shown by men, women and children, especially school teachers. A number have written asking where these sets may be procured.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZA FERRY LEARY,

Vice Regent for Washington.

**WEST VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.**

No report.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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MOUNT VERNON-ON-THE-POTOMAC,  
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

April 30, 1909.

*To the Regent and Vice Regents of the  
Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.*

LADIES: The passing of another year favors me with this privilege of relating what has occurred at Mount Vernon since your last meeting.

My report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1909, is as follows:

In point of numbers the record of visitors was far below that of the previous season, when the Jamestown Exposition attracted so many to this part of the world. The present account includes, however, two other events which caused the tide of travel to turn in this direction, viz: the home-coming of the great American fleet and the inauguration of the President—the latter occasion bringing us 10,000 strangers in one week.

The total for the entire year was 108,425. Taking all things into consideration this fairly well shows by comparison the average increase we may expect from year to year.

It is gratifying to note that with the progress of time there is no abatement of interest in the memory of Washington, but, as a matter of fact, a distinctly evident increase of sentiment as succeeding generations gain deeper knowledge of his wonderful character. And apparently realizing that nowhere so well as at this sacred spot can the true atmosphere of the great man be encountered, these pilgrimages continue, expanding steadily from year to year.

Let me now point out what has engaged my efforts in pursuance of the instructions handed me at last Council.

### DREDGING BOAT CHANNEL.

The feature of greatest expense and chief importance was the dredging of the channel approach to our wharf. This work, you will remember, which heretofore had been attended to by the United States Government, the engineer in charge of Potomac River improvement disapproved the continuance of on the ground that our wharf privileges were not free to the public, but were controlled by

an exclusive corporation. Being advised by our lawyer that the Association, before undertaking this task, would be obliged to have the consent of the War Department, and also the State of Maryland, this procedure was duly followed and permits from both obtained.

The dredging scheme, as laid before last Council, contemplated deepening the boat channel its full length, of course, but only to a width of 100 feet, this width seeming to be sufficient. Thirty thousand cubic yards of the material from this cut was to be pumped ashore and deposited, as a fill, on the swamp near the wharf. Three reliable firms were asked to bid, and the one finally chosen was the Miner Engineering Company. The price agreed upon was \$7,900.

With the approval of the Regent a contract was duly drawn, an indemnity bond furnished, and the work was begun in October, the first step being to construct strong revetments around the swamp to confine the mud.

The spreading of 30,00 cubic yards of material over so large an acreage, while it helped the cause of reclamation, did not bring the level as high as desired. Therefore, under a supplementary proposition by the contractors, the Regent consented, on my recommendation, to have the boat channel dredged to the original width of 150 feet and the turning basin at the wharf widened, thus giving more abundant room for handling the steamboat and ample berth for freight scows, besides adding 25,000 cubic yards to the swamp improvements.

This supplemental project was offered upon such reasonable terms as to admit of no excuse for rejecting it, viz: the payment of \$2,600 to await the pleasure of this Council.

The final dredging was completed in March and the whole work carefully surveyed by a representative of the United States Engineer Department. His report of March 29, 1909, concludes with this statement: "The total amount of material that has been dredged from the channel and turning basin, and deposited behind the bulkhead (on the swamp) is 56,046 cubic yards. A channel has been obtained which conforms with the Government project, viz: a depth of 10 feet at mean low water by a width of 150 feet. Indeed, the depth is considerably in excess of this and the width is greater than required."

Of course, this mass of liquid mud will require several months to settle and solidify before we can make use of its richness; meanwhile, however, the reclamation of that malarial marsh has been effectually accomplished, which is a tremendous gain in the direction of the substantial benefit it will later become.

### COAL VAULTS.

The construction of suitable storage vaults for coal had attention early last summer. Excavating the hard clay to a depth of 12 feet, the walls and floor of concrete were arched with brick and cement, supported on heavy steel girders. Manholes were provided to facilitate storing the coal. The surface was subsequently graded over these vaults, leaving apparently nothing indicative of change.

One vault has capacity for 85 tons, while the other will accommodate 50 tons. These are on floor level with the subterranean boiler-room, which fact puts the coal within easy reach.

Our winter supply of coal was ordered in July, but not delivered until August. It came in cars direct from the mines, thus saving us the cost of trans-shipping. As speedily as the cars were unloaded I had teams employed in hauling the coal and dumping same in the vaults as provided.

The prices paid were practically as for the year previous, viz: white ash anthracite egg and stove, \$6 per ton; bituminous, soft, \$3.75 per ton.

### CULVERT AND ROAD WORK.

In restoring to its former line a portion of the carriage road to the West Lodge gate it was necessary to construct a culvert 45 feet long. Giving this a waterway 3x3 feet provides amply for torrential rains. To resurface the roads a stratum of excellent clay-gravel was developed near the western entrance, and from it enough material was excavated to cover the most worn sections.

### BRICK STEPS AT OLD TOMB.

I brought to your notice last year the condition of the broad brick steps near the Old Tomb. They had been so unsettled by frost, patched and repatched, it was found expedient to make a permanent improvement here by complete reconstruction. Every old brick (strong enough to stand the cleaning) was carefully removed, the clay foundations were replaced by concrete with sub-drain of gravel, and the steps relaid in cement. The original lines have been followed with precision and the effect of age fairly well preserved.

### MANSION STEPS AND DOORS.

In the same manner the stone steps and flagging on the west front of the Mansion were treated. The old sandstone steps, being of unequal hardness, show great irregularity in wear. For the resurfacing of the door step at the main entrance a piece of sandstone like the old was procured. To replace two other steps and some of the square flagging, irreparably worn, cement duplicates of the orig-



inals were made. Solid concrete foundations now take the place of loose material subject to frost action.

This was accomplished so as to give a finished appearance identical with its old form.

It having been discovered by investigation a year ago that the outside of the six (Mansion) doors exposed to weather were originally dark green, Council instructed me to have that color restored. These old pine doors had been painted so many times and so roughly it was found necessary to remove all the old paint before applying the new. It is fortunate this was done, for weaknesses were revealed which we have now been able to correct.

The colonnades at each end of the Mansion were improved by a coat of paint.

The valley gutter of the east portico leaked so badly it had to be renewed, using the best tin procurable. The down spouts of the Mansion and other buildings were strengthened and eave gutters generally overhauled. The lightning rods, too, were inspected and readjusted.

#### MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS.

Shingle roofs of several of the buildings required patching.

At the North Lodge gate the flat roofs covering the passageways had rusted out and new tin was applied. The floors, too, had to be strengthened and the interior of one of the lodges was painted and calcimined.

A small portion of the stone pavement near this gate was taken up and relaid.

Metal roofs were painted as usual, and fences and gates were repaired and whitewashed.

The iron smoke flues of the hot water plant yielded to the long and constant strain upon them, which necessitated renewal. At the same time new grates, of which we had a supply, were put in place of those no longer fit for service. These are the first extensive repairs to this hot water plant we have found essential, which speaks well for the excellence of its construction.

While the machinists were here the steam fire engine was put in thorough order and a new smokestack supplied.

For lodge men engaged here at times on special work I had the old log cabin plastered inside and made habitable.

In Harrison's cabin the plaster walls were patched and the exterior whitewashed.

The floors and walls of the outhouses were properly looked after.

In the Quarters the partition between the Texas bedroom and passageway has been extended, and a ventilating transom arranged for the West Virginia bedroom.

The sleeping rooms over the office were calcimined.

Greenhouse improvements had to do principally with strengthening and refilling the stages, substituting good glass for those accidentally broken, adjusting the ventilators and painting the wood-work.

At the wharf we had occasion to do some painting of steps, cribbing and fender piles. By facing with a stout strip of half-round iron the piling with which the boat comes in contact the wear and tear of the wood is prevented and the duration of these fenders greatly increased.

With a quantity of old bricks which had gradually accumulated a comfortable foot-walk was laid extending in rear of the new cottages.

The small brick vault covering the hydraulic ram was repaired, and the walls of the garden, greenhouse and barn pointed where the old mortar joints showed weakness.

Repairs of minor character improved the chicken house, dog kennel, door steps of various buildings, etc.

A break in the three-inch water main leading from the artesian well was caused by an unequal settling of earth on the steep hillside. In correcting this we have provided against a similar occurrence by installing a swinging joint to allow for contraction or expansion.

The wooden shroud anchors supporting the flagstaff, weakened by age and wind strain, were replaced by more substantial ones of reinforced concrete. Occasion was taken to renew some of the metal capping of the topmast, paint the mast and reeve on a new flag halyard.

For two handsome flags we are indebted to the successors of Miss McFadden, who, many years ago, began such useful presentations. These flags, one of 20 feet, the other 9, invariably arrive in time for Washington's Birthday and are raised, respectively, at the Mansion and Tomb.

Two sad events during the past year called for the special lowering of the Mount Vernon flags: the deaths of ex-President Cleveland and of Mrs. Hill, the lamented Vice Regent for Colorado.

On the anniversary of the death of Miss Cunningham Mount Vernon flowers were sent to her grave.

### TOMB.

Observance of the long-time custom of decorating the Tomb on regular dates was continued.

On May 30 a large wreath of roses was received from the White House.

July 4, the sarcophagi were almost hidden in blooms from our garden.

In September a visiting delegation known as "Franz Schubert Mænnerchor" brought a handsome floral tribute.

December 14, the anniversary of Washington's death, in addition to our own memorials, deputations from the Masonic Lodges at Alexandria and Fredericksburg placed wreaths upon his sarcophagus.

December 29, superb floral offerings were brought by the Chinese Minister and a party of his distinguished countrymen.

December 30, the President of Guatemala added his respectful and beautiful tribute.

February 22 was appropriately commemorated by the George Washington Birthday Association of Alexandria, and the Liberty Lodge of Beverly, Mass.

March 5, the Union League of Brooklyn paid homage by an address and the gift of handsome flowers.

April 9, distinguished visitors from Japan signified their deep appreciation of our National Hero, as well as the church festival, by asking that their wreath be placed at the Tomb on Easter Day.

April 19, Mrs. Frederick B. Stevens, on behalf of the Michigan Mount Vernon Society, sent a large wreath of galax leaves.

April 21, the Society of the Children of the American Revolution brought floral pieces in memory of General and Mrs. Washington.

#### DONATIONS.

From Mr. Charles A. Munn, of New York, was received a copy of his book entitled "Three Types of Washington Portraits."

From Mrs. Victor V. Miller, of Mason and Dixon, Pa., a unique relic in the shape of a small box made of a piece of Washington's coffin, lined with wood from the tree under which William Penn held his first treaty with the Indians (1682), and an inlaid ivory disc containing a very small lock of Washington's hair.

Mrs. Mary Stevens Beall, of Washington, D. C., contributed "for our archives" a cloth-bound copy of her booklet called "The Washington Coaches and the Powel Coach now at Mount Vernon."

An old engraving of the "Washington Family," marked "Presented to the Mount Vernon Association by Miss Florence A. Hart, Portsmouth, N. H., in memory of Mrs. Nathan W. Oliver and Mrs. William A. Winder," the latter once a member of the Association from New Hampshire.

Gen. G. W. Custis Lee, of Ravensworth, in 1876-'77 (through the Vice Regent for Virginia) entrusted to the care of the Association certain relics, including the bedstead on which Washington died.

Last summer he kindly volunteered to transfer to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association all his right and interest in whatever he or his mother had formerly sent. The Regent readily acquiesced in

this, and General Lee forthwith executed a formal deed of transfer of the several (enumerated) articles.

Through Mr. Lawrence Washington was acquired an interesting map of New England used by General Washington during his military campaign.

From Mr. William de Hertburn Washington the Bible containing a record of family events, including the birth and baptism of George Washington, was purchased.

From Mr. Francis R. Appleton, of New York, \$5.

#### WASHINGTON DIARIES.

The project of obtaining, through the Library of Congress, typewritten copies of the diaries kept by Washington, is partially accomplished. Arrangements were entered into with an official copyist of the Library, Miss Edna L. Stone, who has shown painstaking effort in the rather difficult work. All the Washington diaries (in the Library) from 1760 to 1785 Miss Stone has already furnished us duplicate copies of. There remain at least 600 pages of typewritten matter to cover the records extending from 1785 to 1799. Some portions of the original diaries, not accessible to the Library of Congress, I purchased printed copies of, to enable us to have, as far as possible, all of Washington's personal notes.

#### GARDEN AND GROUNDS.

The flower garden never looked more attractive than during the past year. By the gradual perpetuation of the old style flowers the public interest is increased. The splendid box hedges—always the most noticeable feature—continue to thrive, and so do the four ancient pear trees which, according to Washington's diary, were planted by him in 1785.

The propagation and distribution of slips from the rose bushes he named for his mother and adopted daughter, of seed from his famous *Magnolia Grandiflora*, of box from the hedges he planted, of ivy from his Tomb, spreads abroad the veneration for this Virginia gentleman.

Why persons have not more generally availed themselves of the opportunity of getting from our forest seedlings of the various varieties of oak to plant on their estates is a puzzle to me. Advertising has, so far, brought no orders, and meanwhile the crop of young trees is going to waste.

Seventy-five of these seedling oaks were shipped last winter for the Vice Regent for Missouri, to present to the Washington University in St. Louis, and through the Vice Regent for Mississippi a few were sent to the Superintendent of Schools of Yazoo City and Canton, Miss.

Before these shipments could be made or any nursery stock sold we were compelled by a comparatively new law of Virginia to await an inspection of nursery, garden and woodland by the State Entomologist. If this inspection showed a "clean bill of health," that is, if the plant life at Mount Vernon was found free from San Jose scale or other disease, then, upon application, a certificate of registration would be issued to us. These formalities were fully complied with and we now hold a proper certificate enabling us to dispose of our produce. But each September there must be a new inspection and certificate if we would "continue in business," and with each year a payment of \$20. So it behooves us to exploit our little trees and create a demand for them.

The special treatment of our aged trees by expert trimmers was again entrusted to Professor Withers. His six skilled men came early in November and were comfortably lodged in the old log cabin I had fitted up for them. They remained here but three weeks because of limited appropriation.

I therefore directed their energies to trees especially difficult to treat, leaving for less skilled climbers work we can very well manage to do ourselves. The trees which had their attention are between the Tomb and wharf and in the deer park. As closely as I can reckon they "doctored" upward of 100 old trees. This they got through with without any serious accident.

Following these men our regular laborers had much cleaning up to do, cutting up and burning brush, extracting stumps and burning them. Similar duty engaged their attention later when they cleared sprouts and undergrowth from our boundary on the north.

The kitchen garden has been looked after with interest and industry. Having lightened the clay soil by plowing in quantities of leaves (those raked from the lawns in autumn), its character has been markedly improved.

From the different vegetables grown last season we canned a considerable amount for winter use. The figs did not mature very well, nor did the wall fruits succeed. It being necessary to renew the propagating beds, concrete was used instead of wood as heretofore. The sash were practically rebuilt and reglazed. New posts for the grape trellis were supplied and terrace steps rebuilt. To prevent in great measure the draft on the soil near the north wall, caused by the multitude of roots from the large trees adjacent, we trenched deeply along that side of the garden and cut off those roots which so sapped the fertility. Grape vines, currants, gooseberries, small fruits and figs were pruned, the latter being covered before winter set in as protection against frost.

The care of the lawns during the summer keeps the men continually busy, yet owing to the encroachment of the Bermuda grass our turf here will always present a mangy appearance in early spring. Perennial rye grass sown on bare spots gives only temporary effect of greenness, which lasts, however, until the Bermuda grass reappears, usually in June.

What leaves are not directly applied to and turned into the soil are dumped into the barnyard or deep ravines for compost.

We have had gratifying results in the use of Herbicide to subdue weed growth in the cobble gutters. Two good applications in the course of the season rids them entirely of this pest.

The walks and roads about the place require much attention, especially those on steep grades, where rain wash does greatest injury.

Authorized by you last year to assist (with our men and teams) in bettering the condition of the road approach to Mount Vernon, I employed our force during one week in July and again this spring digging and hauling gravel to fill a particularly bad section about one and a half miles distant. The more urgent need for special work on the estate interrupted this road improvement, but I trust I may be allowed to continue it later.

### FARM.

The farming operations last season, in consequence of adverse weather conditions, proved very discouraging. The long drought and unusual heat of June severely injured the young crops of corn and whippoorwill peas. The latter recovered in vine growth (when rain fell), but did not bloom, so yielded no grain. Four acres in potatoes produced barely enough to pay for seed. From 18 acres in corn we made but  $77\frac{1}{3}$  barrels.

Ten acres sown with crimson clover show marked irregularities in development, but this is largely due to the different clays which outcrop on that slope (the hillside facing the river).

Two carloads of agricultural lime (amounting to 48 tons) arrived and was hauled to the fields last autumn.

For distributing lime and manure an improved mechanical spreader was purchased.

Fourteen acres were seeded to rye for early pasture and to be fallowed for corn.

Four acres (next to the east lawn) are sown for hay and pasture. Nine acres adjoining are in oats and grass.

Five acres (north) in oats.

Ten acres (river front) in crimson clover.

Eighteen acres (last year's corn ground) are being prepared for whippoorwill peas.

There are two lots, each four acres, at present available for pasture.

As approved by the Farm Committee during Council I sold our small flock of sheep and lambs, getting very good prices for them. It was deemed advisable to change to fresh stock later on when our grazing advantages warrant it.

We have managed to do all our regular team work—that is, coach service, farming, hauling material, etc., with the coach horses and one pair of mules.

On extra occasions outside teams have been hired.

We really need another pair of draft horses to fill our requirements for steady work. The colt we raised here turned out badly and ought to be disposed of.

There are fourteen deer in the park and three or four at large on the estate. To change the breeding, and thereby benefit the herd, four bucks were disposed of last winter, and two needed to replace them are partially engaged.

#### BOAT.

Owing to the favoring condition of weather the boat continued its daily trips later than usual last winter. On January 1 service was suspended to admit of urgent repairs and resumed on February 15, thus being in ample season to accommodate the great number of strangers attracted to Washington in February and March.

To facilitate travel to Mount Vernon during the "Inaugural week," the Regent approved my recommendation to admit visitors from 9 o'clock A. M. until 5 P. M., thus making it possible for the boat to make three round trips each day.

The trolley service was so well arranged that there were but short intervals between trains and no congestion in the handling of crowds.

We, of course, had to employ the usual number of extra guards to direct the visitors and protect the property.

Of almost daily occurrence are the involuntary expressions of delight uttered by those who appreciate what you ladies have accomplished in the direction of restoring Mount Vernon and retaining its original appearance.

The continuance of your good work calls for recommendations as to what repairs or restorations should be arranged for at this session.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

The following list is by way of suggestion to assist your committees in calculating for work in the near future.

#### SHINGLES FOR MANSION.

Last year I asked for permission to buy 50,000 shingles for the Mansion roof. Because this roof must be renewed before very long.

and also for the reason that the particular class of lumber of which these shingles are made is growing scarcer every year, and therefore increasing in value, I deemed it wise to place an order for this material without delay.

The necessity for reproducing accurately the original roof precludes the use of any substitute such as tiles, slate or asbestos shingles (which, as a matter of fact, the old rafters are not strong enough to bear), but calls for the best *rived* shingles, because Washington had them.

Rived shingles are rarely made now, it seems, because sawing them is easier than splitting. Inquiries through the lumber regions of the South were made by the Vice Regents for Mississippi and Texas, but without just the success desired. Within the past month, however, several satisfactory proposals have given opportunity for selection. When these shingles are obtained they should be subjected to some fire-resisting process and laid aside to thoroughly season before use on the roof.

#### DEER PARK WALL.

A repair I advised for last year, but which, because of more pressing work, could not then be undertaken, was the wall supporting the iron fence of the deer park. Frost action there has heaved the stone coping and otherwise affected the brick work. This should be corrected and the footing of the wall made more secure by a substantial construction of reinforced concrete.

#### BRICK PAVEMENT.

There should be a short extension of the paving toward the wharf, where, because of the grade, it is impossible to otherwise suitably maintain a proper footway.

#### TELEPHONE WIRES.

To dispense with the unsightly poles and wires near our buildings I would advise an underground conduit for a distance of about 800 feet.

#### PUBLIC CLOSET EQUIPMENT.

The increasing travel demands better toilet facilities for visitors. The present equipment is obsolete and has caused frequent complaint. Therefore, it is my duty to advise an improvement in this respect, which is really needed.

#### PAINTING.

Several of the buildings and roofs should be painted this summer.

The foregoing items cover the objects of particular importance. After inspection and conference with the committee this list may be changed.



I am grateful for the many expressions of pleasure I have heard from the ladies present touching the appearance of Mount Vernon. I can only repeat my assurance that our interest in the betterment and safeguarding of this historic spot never flags—on the contrary is stimulated by achievements which have excited popular acclaim.

The continued consideration and encouragement with which you have invariably honored me and my assistants is deeply appreciated and it is hoped we may always merit your good opinion.

Faithfully, your obedient servant,

HARRISON H. DODGE,  
Resident Secretary and Superintendent.

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## CONDENSED STATEMENT

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For the year ending April 30th, 1909, the financial statement of the Superintendent gives

Wharf entrances, 96 at 25c.....	\$24.00
Visitors by railway, 66,372 at 25c.....	16,593.00
Visitors by boat, 41,957 at 25c.....	10,489.25
Wharf privileges .....	99.96
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$27,206.21
Revenue from other sources.....	14,254.94
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$41,461.15
Total expenditures .....	42,582.46
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## SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1908

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Sept. 3—Had printed by T. W. Morgan, Ottawa, Kansas, sixty (60) copies of minutes, and eight hundred (800) copies of reports .....	\$90.00
Check from Regent.....	90.00
	<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>
Office expenses:	
Typewriting .....	\$15.00
Packages to Vice Regents.....	6.35
Postage, single copies.....	2.50
Expressing box of reports and minutes to Mount Vernon..	4.00
Envelopes, twine, paper, etc.....	2.50
Assistant .....	5.00
Sept. 29—Expressing box reports.....	2.00
Sept. 29—Registered package.....	.88
	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>
	\$38.23
Balance from last year.....	11.22
	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>
Total.....	\$27.01
Dec. 21—Check from Superintendent.....	27.01
	<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIE M. WARD,  
Secretary of Council.

## GARDENER'S REPORT

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MOUNT VERNON, May 14, 1909.

LADIES: I am sure you will agree with me that our old garden never looked better. The boxwood hedge passed through a trying period during March, but, happily, is in fine shape.

Mrs. Brown, Vice Regent for Rhode Island, kindly sent me plants of Bottonia, which I have planted and which are doing well.

The narrow grass borders have always been a source of annoyance, and I have substituted violet borders in lower end of garden, which I think will simplify matters for all time. I hope, eventually, to have all the borders of violets, primroses and pinks.

The miserable weather of the Inaugural period interfered, of course, with our sales, but proportionally I think my receipts were better than the year 1907-'08, as the travel was nothing like as great the past year.

Total receipts .....\$697.40

Expenditures for postage, etc..... 13.30

Cash to Superintendent.....\$684.10

Hoping that my efforts may meet your hearty approval, and that each succeeding year you may see an improvement, I am, dear ladies,

Yours faithfully,

FRANKLIN A. WHELAN,

Head Gardener.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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### MANSION COMMITTEE.

The repairs recommended by the Mansion Committee last year have been carried out and the Mansion is in excellent condition.

The following suggestions are submitted:

The shutters and cellar doors of the Mansion require painting.

A new door sill for kitchen and a stone or concrete step to replace the wooden one.

Several stones in the coping of east portico to be reset.

The Superintendent has succeeded in getting a portion of the shingles suitable for roof of Mansion and is taking measures to secure more. Fifty thousand shingles will be required.

The most important matter to be acted upon is the preservation of the corner stone, to which the attention of Council was called in the Superintendent's report and in the Mansion report of last year. We beg that serious consideration be given to this subject.

REBECCA B. FLANDRAU, Chairman.

ELLEN W. HARRISON.

MARGARETTA M. BARRET.

FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS.

FRANCES JONES RICKS.

### REPORT OF FURNITURE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee has gone over the house and submits the following suggestions:

1. In Mrs. Washington's room a card should be placed on table stating it was here in General Washington's day.

2. Card rewritten giving statement that the candle was at Yorktown illumination.

3. Dining-room: That card be placed on mantel ornaments stating they belonged to Lafayette.

The bust of Washington to be touched up with brown paint where chipped off. Placard on palmetto wood rewritten.

4. West Parlor: Stains removed, if possible, from yellow satin chairs.

Banquet Hall: Ask for glass and frame to be renewed on card descriptive of mantel-piece. Portraits over doors to be reframed

corresponding to frame on Gilbert Stuart portrait. Card on Chinese jar, which belonged to Washington.

River Room: Mirror over washstand cleaned.

Lafayette Room: Valance on bed mended.

Spare Bedroom: Bed spread and valance washed and windows cleaned.

West Spare Room: New shades; towels.

North Carolina Room: Spread washed.

Maine Room: New shade. Two chairs in this room to be brought down stairs.

That nail be removed from copy of Gilbert Stuart portrait.

HELEN F. CONOVER, Chairman.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM.

AMY TOWNSEND.

LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON.

ELLEN W. HARRISON.

#### **LIBRARY COMMITTEE.**

The Library Committee reports that it has examined the contents of the library and find them in good condition. The books have all been removed from the shelves, dusted, examined and replaced in proper order.

The following volumes have been received:

"Three Types of Washington Portraits," C. A. Munn.

"Monuments of Washington's Patriotism," presented by Mr. Sylvester Pope, of New York.

IDA A. RICHARDSON, Chairman.

HELEN F. CONOVER.

MARY YEATMAN WEBB.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

MARY F. FAILING.

#### **GUIDE BOOK COMMITTEE.**

The Committee on the Guide Book reports that important changes have been recommended for the Guide Book for the next edition. It is recommended that an inventory be made of all the Washington relics and published in the Guide Book, also a map of the house and grounds.

It is recommended that, with Mr. Owen Wister's permission, the last chapter of his book, "Seven Ages of Washington," be quoted in the new edition of the Guide Book, as expressing most beautifully the spirit of Mount Vernon.

MARY YEATMAN WEBB, Acting Chairman.

**BY-LAWS.**

The Committee on By-Laws submit their report, making no change whatever in the By-Laws as printed in 1901, but to add the following committees: Committee on Guide Book, Committee on Investigation of Washington Relics, and Committee on Post Cards.

REBEKAH S. MANDERSON, Chairman.

ANNE A. BROWN.

ELIZA F. LEARY.

**PRESS COMMITTEE.**

The Press Committee has kept the public informed through the Washington papers of the important relics presented to Mount Vernon during this session of Council.

MARY YEATMAN WEBB, Chairman.

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM.

MARGARETTA BARRET.

ANNE A. BROWN.

ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.

**KITCHEN GARDEN.**

The Committee on Kitchen Garden is much pleased with its present condition.

It suggests that part of the Garden be again divided into square vegetable beds, with the small dwarf fruit trees planted as shown in one print.

The old brick steps should be restored, and the forcing beds removed from the garden proper and made outside of the walls and the number to be increased; wall fruits to be trimmed and those removed restored and new plants put on the north wall of the garden.

ELLEN W. HARRISON, Chairman.

E. W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.

**FARM COMMITTEE.**

The Farm Committee, after inspecting the estate, is impressed with the difficulties attending the treatment of this dense clay soil. Tendency to weed growth seriously affects the maintenance of permanent pastures and necessitates frequent rotation of crops.

Perseverance in deep plowing and the plentiful application of manure and lime must in time restore these hills to fertility, an additional factor being occasional plowing under of crops, such as clover and peas. Lime was applied to 50 acres last winter, and we would recommend an appropriation this year for manure.

Reclaiming the swamp gives us the pleasing prospect of a rich and productive meadow when its cultivation is possible.

Until the problem of pasture is mastered we deem it advisable to do away with the dairy.

There is need for another horse to be used for general purposes. The colt, not proving suitable, should be sold.

The Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture be asked to send an expert to examine the soil of the farms of Mount Vernon, and that a special laborer be employed for farm work only. Also that a change be made by buying seed from a Northern firm.

PHOEBE A. HEARST, Chairman.  
ELLEN W. HARRISON.  
MARY YEATMAN WEBB.  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.  
REBEKAH S. MANDERSON.  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.  
MARGARETTA BARRET.  
FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS.

#### RELIC COMMITTEE.

This Committee has to report the receipt of the sword worn by General Washington when he resigned command of the army at Annapolis after the Revolution, presented by Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, through Miss Townsend, Vice Regent for New York. Also one of the original plates, a cup and saucer, presented Mrs. Washington by the French officers. Also a large vase given by a family in Philadelphia, through Mrs. Harrison, Vice Regent for Pennsylvania. A seal presented by Washington to John Quincy Adams, who left it to Dr. George Parkman, has been presented to Mount Vernon by Dr. Parkman, through Miss Longfellow, Vice Regent for Massachusetts, with letters containing a true account of the seal.

The six cabinets have been thoroughly examined and all relics found intact. These have been cleaned, the garments brushed, and all are now in order.

The French hunting horn now hanging in the hall was presented by Lafayette to Washington and sent to Mount Vernon by Judge James A. Pearce, of Maryland.

IDA A. RICHARDSON, Chairman.  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.  
MARGARETTA BARRET.  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.  
CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION OF RELICS.

This Committee reports the purchase, for \$250, from Mr. Lawrence Washington, of a military map used by General Washington in the Revolutionary War. This purchase was made by sanction of the Regent, after the Council of 1908, as Mr. Washington had another offer for a larger sum, but preferred selling at a reduction to the Mount Vernon Association.

The Washington-Ball Bible was purchased from Mr. de Hertburn Washington in July, 1908. A voluminous correspondence preceded this purchase in order to establish beyond doubt the authenticity of the Bible and our clear title to its possession. Mr. Dodge went on to New York to bring the Bible to Mount Vernon. We may now rejoice in the possession of this precious, time-worn Bible, that contains the record of the birth and baptism of George Washington, the name that stands for all time for what is noble, able, great and good.

Many relics have been offered the Committee for purchase, but as it is impossible to pay the prices asked for most of them, the Committee recommends that efforts be concentrated upon the Mary Ball Washington chair, which is now at Mount Vernon in Washington's bedroom as a loan. Colonel de Languel, the old gentleman of 83 years, who owns the chair, has notified us that he is "setting his house in order," and desires to sell the chair for \$1,000. This Committee has offered him \$500 for the chair. He is unwilling, he says, to take a penny less, but he is willing to leave it here for the present. The Committee recommends securing an option on the chair for a year.

A copy of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, published in 1860, which contains an account of an entertainment given at Mount Vernon, under Miss Cunningham's auspices, is offered for \$2.50. The Committee recommends its purchase.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Chairman.  
GEORGIE PAGE WILDER.  
ELLEN W. HARRISON.  
EMMA R. BALL.  
MARY YEATMAN WEBB.  
ANNE A. BROWN.

## COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS AND SHRUBS.

The Chairman of this Committee comes to Council with sincere gratitude to Mrs. Hudson, who has acted as Chairman, and the ladies of her Committee, for the work done, in which her health has prevented her taking any part the past three years.



The important work done by this Committee in housing the coal in subterranean cellar, the changing of the roads, and the keeping in order of the grounds, which are constantly visited by thousands of visitors yearly, shows marked improvement.

The work recommended to be done during the year 1909-'10 is as follows:

A system of water sewerage should be provided; the deer park wall should be repaired; the extension of the walks on the short cut, and west of the Tomb; the telephone wires should be placed under ground; all bare spots in the turf should be replaced, and the planting of holly and shrubs is also recommended. The total estimate of the cost of this work is \$3,200.

MARY LEITER, Chairman.  
SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON.  
ALICE K. D. IRWIN.  
CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM.  
MARGARETTA BARRET.  
ANNE J. A. BROWN.  
AMY TOWNSEND.  
IDA A. RICHARDSON.

#### REPORT OF TOMB COMMITTEE.

Your Committee visited both Tombs and beg leave to make the following suggestions:

1. That a brick path be made in front of the two monuments, Eleanor Parke Custis and Mr. Conrad.
2. A privet hedge be planted on right-hand side of upper path from the Tomb to main drive.
3. That sod be replaced around Cedar of Lebanon.
4. That a dwarf barberry hedge be planted on the left-hand side of path leading from the main drive to the Tomb.
5. That sentry box be painted dark green.
6. That brick path be extended in front of benches.

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM, Chairman.  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.  
EMMA R. BALL.  
FRANCES C. MAXEY.  
REBECCA B. FLANDRAU.  
FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS.

### COMMITTEE ON GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE.

This Committee is happy to report that everything in the flower garden and in the greenhouses is in excellent condition and they show the faithful care that they have received the past year. The box hedges suffered severely from the storm of March 4, and the gardener wrote the Acting Chairman at the time that he was in despair concerning their restoration, as great holes had been made in them. So we were surprised, on our arrival, to find the hedges maintaining the usual unbroken lines of green symmetry. The gardener had drawn together the branches around the holes by strings and tied them so that holes were filled up, and the fresh young growth had aided in bridging them over.

The Committee will leave directions with the gardener concerning minor details.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Acting Chairman.  
 GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.  
 MARY LEITER.  
 AMY TOWNSEND.  
 FRANCES C. MAXEY.  
 HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS.  
 SARAH P. VAN RENSSELAER.

### REPORT OF POST CARD COMMITTEE.

The sale of post cards has been large, and the fine quality of the photographs has been highly commended. The receipts in this department more than cover the cost.

AMY TOWNSEND, Chairman.  
 E. B. A. RATHBONE.  
 MARY F. FAILING.

At the request of Council, Mrs. Hudson submitted the following inscription to be engraved on the tomb of Miss Cunningham at Columbia, S. C.:

**A LOVING TRIBUTE**

**FROM THE**

**BOARD OF REGENTS**

**TO THE**

**MEMORY OF**

**ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM**

**Founder and First Regent of the**

**MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION**

**OF THE UNION**

**1853**

**1874**

At the suggestion of the Regent, Mrs. Townsend, a motion was seconded and carried at this council, voting a sufficient sum of money for the purchase of a handsome and suitable gift to be presented to Mr. Riggs as an expression of appreciation and gratitude for the faithful care with which Mr. Riggs and his father have for many years looked after the best interests of the Association. The selection of this gift was left to Mrs. Townsend, who, on her return to New York, was assisted by Miss Townsend, Vice-Regent for New York, in selecting and purchasing a silver dessert service as a testimonial from the ladies of the Association. The service consists of a large centrepiece and four compotieres—very large and handsome—of English design with pierced border. On the centrepiece the following inscription is engraved:

**THE REGENT**  
**AND**  
**VICE-REGENTS**  
**OF THE**  
**MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION**  
**TO**  
**E. FRANCIS RIGGS,**  
 in grateful recognition of his disinterested services, and  
 of those of his father,  
**GEORGE W. RIGGS,**  
 during more than half a century in the administration  
 of the finances of the Association.

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Hon. Claude A. Swanson, Governor of Virginia, appointed the following gentlemen on the Board of Visitors:

Hon. A. D. Brockett, Alexandria.  
 Major Wm. H. Sands, Richmond.  
 Hon. Leigh R. Page, Richmond.  
 Capt. Dan. M. Lee, Fredericksburg.  
 Rev. F. P. Berkeley, Leesburg.

The Regent and Vice-Regents invited Governor Swanson and the Board of Visitors to Mount Vernon, on Tuesday, May 18th. Owing

to an important engagement elsewhere, the Governor was not able to accept the invitation. Mr. Brockett, Major Sands, Mr. Berkeley, and Captain Lee were present, with other distinguished guests. The Vice-President of the United States and Chief Justice Brewer, of the United States Supreme Court, honored the occasion and made interesting speeches in the council chamber during the afternoon.

Major Wm. H. Sands, on the part of the Board of Visitors, also made a speech. The Regent requested Mrs. Rathbone, Vice-Regent for Michigan, to respond for her, which was gracefully done. The ceremonies of the day being over the guests dispersed, expressing themselves as well pleased with the condition of affairs at Mount Vernon.

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The collection of Washington relics has received some very valuable additions this year, which will add greatly to the interest of Mount Vernon. Mr. Pierpont Morgan, to whose generosity we owe several of our most interesting relics, has presented the Association with the sword worn by General Washington when he resigned his commission, in Annapolis, on December 23, 1783; when he was inaugurated first President of the United States, and on all subsequent State occasions. The sword now hangs in the entrance hall of the Mansion, in its mahogany case, where it is an object of interest to all visitors.

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A gentleman from Philadelphia presented, through the Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania, a plate, cup and saucer marked "M. W.," part of the original set presented to Mrs. Washington by the French officers, also a vase of beautiful china that was once among the furnishings of Washington's home. Very slowly these treasures are finding their way back, but each one is welcomed with enthusiasm, for even the smallest adds to the personal atmosphere of Mount Vernon and makes it more sacred in its memories.

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The Regent and Vice-Regents were invited by Mrs. Taft to a garden party at the White House, on Friday, the 14th of May. Council adjourned for that afternoon and a number of the ladies went to Washington in the special car provided for the use of the Regent and Vice-Regents by the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Railway Company. Automobiles conveyed them from the

station to the White House grounds, where Mrs. Taft received her guests amid the beautiful surroundings of the home of our Presidents. The scene was most picturesque, the costumes of foreign diplomats and uniforms of our Army and Navy officers, mingled with the bright gowns of the ladies. Behind a rose hedge the Marine Band was screened, giving forth pleasantly modulated music, and over all the classic monument to Washington towered in majestic dignity. The party returned to Mount Vernon about six o'clock.

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The Council of 1909 has had to face a trying ordeal in accepting the resignation of the Regent, Mrs. Townsend, who for eighteen years has guided the deliberations of the councils and administered the affairs of the Association in a manner acceptable to every one. Through illness or accident, her interest never flagged. Her influence was always for harmony and unanimity in the Board with the result of accomplishing the restoration of Mount Vernon to its original condition. Her failing health and the urgent wishes of her family precipitated this step, which caused a painful break to all who were associated with her in the preservation of this sacred spot. The resignation was accepted, because it was felt to be irrevocable, but with profound regret. On motion of Mrs. Maxey, of Texas, Mrs. Townsend was unanimously elected Honary Regent for life. The Association being without an executive head, it was necessary to call a special session to elect a Regent. Miss Comegys, Vice-Regent for Delaware, was elected by acclamation. A worthy successor. Long may she fill the office.

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The Bishop of Washington sent his emissary, Rev. George Calvert Carter, Rector of St. Andrew's, to invite the Regent and Vice-Regents to an open-air service at Mt. St. Albans, on Ascension Day. As it was near the close of the session, and much work remained to be done, an adjournment was not thought advisable. Six of the Vice-Regents, however, were excused from the afternoon session, and enjoyed this beautiful and impressive service.

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The Regent, Mrs. Townsend, appointed Mrs. A. B. Andrews Vice-Regent for North Carolina, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mrs. Walker, January, 1908.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

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### FINANCE.

Mrs. Ball, chairman; Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Wilder.

### MANSION.

Mrs. Flandrau, chairman; Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Ricks, Mrs. Andrews.

### FURNITURE.

Mrs. Wilder, chairman; Mrs. Graham, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Leary.

### LIBRARY.

Miss Longfellow, chairman; Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Johnston, Miss Failing, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

### GROUNDS AND SHRUBS.

Mrs. Leiter, chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Brown.

### GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE.

Mrs. Barnes, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Leiter, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

### KITCHEN GARDEN.

Mrs. Harrison, chairman; Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Andrews, Miss Failing.

### FARM.

Mrs. Hearst, chairman; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Brown.

### TOMB.

Mrs. Graham, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

**RELICS.**

Mrs. Richardson, chairman; Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Webb, Miss Townsend.

**RECORD.**

Mrs. Hudson, chairman; Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Leary.

**BY-LAWS.**

Mrs. Richardson, chairman; Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Brown.

**INDEX.**

Mrs. Ward, chairman; Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Ricks.

**PARLIAMENTARY RULES.**

Mrs. Manderson, chairman; Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Barret.

**PRESS.**

Mrs. Webb, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Ricks, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Pringle.

**GUIDE BOOK.**

Miss Longfellow, chairman; Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Flandrau.

**POSTAL CARDS.**

Miss Townsend, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Graham, Miss Failing.

**INVESTIGATION OF WASHINGTON RELICS.**

Mrs. Rathbone, chairman; Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Brown, Miss Failing.



## THE FAREWELL ADDRESS

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### OF THE FOUNDER AND FIRST REGENT OF THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION

**T**O the Council of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of June, 1875. Ladies: It was my intention, as well as my duty, to have met you at this time and conferred in person to the legal requisition accompanying a resignation so important as mine; but Providence does not permit.

But in parting, I feel it due to you, as to me; to the responsibilities I solemnly assumed, which were so important in their results; to those you have taken upon yourselves; to say a few words as to those responsibilities or duties, laid down in the beginning of our work, not to be lightly regarded, for they were pledges to future generations as well as to ours. The minds and hearts which conceived the rescue of the home of Washington; of the completion of a worthy "tribute" to public integrity and private virtue; an expression of the gratitude due and felt by a country destined to act such an important part in the drama of the world; conceived it with all the reverence felt in older regions for the resting-places of their honored dead; where only pious hands are permitted to be in "charge," so as to

have them carried down to admiring ages in the same conditions as when left.

Such was the pledge made to the American heart when an appeal was made to it to save the home and tomb of Washington, the father of his country, from all change, whether by law or desecration. Such, to the last owner of Mount Vernon, ere he was willing to permit it to pass from his hands. Such to the legislature of his mother state, ere she gave us legal rights over it. Such are we bound to keep. Our honor is concerned, as well as our intelligence and legal obligations. The mansion and the grounds around it should be religiously guarded from change—should be kept as Washington left them.

Ladies, the home of Washington is in your charge; see to it that you keep it the home of Washington. Let no irreverent hand change it; no vandal hands desecrate it with the fingers of progress! Those who go to the home in which he lived and died, wish to see in what he lived and died. Let one spot in this grand country of ours be saved from change! Upon you rests this duty.

When the Centennial comes, bringing with it its thousands from the ends of the earth, to whom the home of Washington will be the place of places in our country, let them see that, though we slay our forests, remove our dead, pull down our churches, remove from home to home, till the hearthstone seems to have no resting place in America, let them see that we do know how to care for the home of our Hero! Farewell!

Ladies, I return to your hands the office so long held—since December 2nd, 1853.

Respectfully,

June 1st, 1874.

ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM.

## COMPLETE LIST OF ALL OFFICERS OF MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION

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Founder and First Regent 1853-1873,  
Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, South Carolina,  
Resigned 1873, Died 1874.

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### VICE REGENTS APPOINTED 1858.

1. Mrs. Anna Cora Ogden Ritchie, resigned 1866.....Virginia
2. Mrs. Alice Dickinson, resigned 1859.....North Carolina
3. Mrs. Philoclea Edgeworth Eve, died 1889.....Georgia
4. Mrs. Octavia Walton Le Vert, died 1866.....Mississippi
6. Mrs. Margaretta S. Morse, resigned 1873; died 1895..Louisiana
7. Mrs. Mary Rutledge Fogg, died——.....Tennessee
8. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Walton, resigned 1860.....Missouri
9. Miss Mary Morris Hamilton, died 1876.....New York
10. Mrs. Louisa Ingersoll Greenough, resigned 1865..Massachusetts
11. Mrs. Abba Isabella Little, resigned 1863.....Maine
12. Mrs. Catherine Willis Murat, died 1867.....Florida
13. Mrs. Mary Boott Goodrich, resigned 1861.....Connecticut
14. Miss Phebe Ann Ogden, died 1867.....New Jersey
15. Mrs. Alice Key Pendleton, resigned 1863; died 1885.....Ohio
16. Mrs. Abby Wheaton Chace, died 1892.....Rhode Island
17. Mrs. Jane Maria Van Antwerp, died——.....Iowa
18. Mrs. Margaret Ann Comegys, died 1888.....Delaware
19. Mrs. Hannah Blake Farnsworth, died 1879.....Michigan
20. Mrs. Martha Mitchell, died 1902.....Wisconsin
22. Mrs. Rosa Vertner Johnson, died——.....Kentucky

1859.

23. Mrs. Elizabeth Willard Barry, died 1884.....Illinois
24. Mrs. Sarah J. Sibley, died 1869.....Minnesota
25. Mrs. Mary Pepperell Jarvis Cutts, resigned 1878.....Vermont
26. Miss Lily Lytle Macalester, died 1891.....Pennsylvania

- 27. Mrs. Magdalen G. Blanding, resigned 1883.....California
- 28. Mrs. Harriet V. Fitch, died 1880.....Indiana
- 29. Mrs. Sarah H. Johnson, died 1866.....Arkansas
- 30. Mrs. Anne Lucas Hunt, died 1878.....Missouri
- 31. Mrs. Letitia Harper Walker, died 1908.....North Carolina

## 1860.

- 32. Mrs. Mary Chestnut, died 1861.....South Carolina
- 33. Mrs. Margaret J. M. Sweat, died 1908.....Maine
- 34. Miss Emily L. Harper, died 1891.....Maryland
- 35. Mrs. Lucy H. Pickens, died August 1899.....South Carolina
- 36. Mrs. M. E. Hickman, resigned 1867.....Nevada
- 37. Mrs. M. A. Stearns, resigned 1872.....New Hampshire
- 38. Mrs. Emily R. M. Hewson, resigned 1866.....Ohio
- 39. Miss Ella Hutchins, resigned 1866.....Texas

## 1867.

- 40. Mrs. Janet M. C. Riggs, resigned 1868.....District of Columbia
- 41. Mrs. Maria Brooks, resigned 1876.....New York
- 42. Mrs. Matilda W. Emory, resigned 1873.....District of Columbia
- 43. Mrs. Nancy Wade Halsted, died 1891.....New Jersey

## 1868

- 44. Mrs. Nannie C. Yulee, died 1884.....Florida

## 1870.

- 45. Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson.....Connecticut
- 46. Mrs. Betsey C. Mason, died 1873.....Virginia
- 47. Mrs. A. P. Dillon, resigned 1874; died 1898.....Iowa
- 48. Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, died 1898.....West Virginia

## 1872.

- 49. Mrs. William Balfour, resigned 1875.....Mississippi
- 50. Mrs. Mary T. Barnes.....District of Columbia
- 51. Mrs. David Urquhart, resigned 1876.....Louisiana
- 52. Miss Mary E. Maverick, resigned 1873.....Texas
- 53. Mrs. C. L. Scott, resigned 1877.....Arkansas

This was the last appointment of Miss Cunningham, First Regent.

**MRS. LILY M. BERGHMAN.**

**Second Regent, 1874-1891.**

**Died 1891.**

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**Vice Regents Appointed 1874,**

- 54. Mrs. Emma Reed Ball.....Virginia
- 55. Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, died 1883.....Tennessee

**1875.**

- 56. Mrs. Lily L. Broadwell, died 1890.....Ohio
- 57. Mrs. John P. Jones.....Nevada

**1876.**

- 58. Mrs. Jennie Meeker Ward.....Kansas
- 59. Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend.....New York

**1878.**

- 60. Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, resigned 1880.....Vermont

**1879**

- 61. Miss Alice Longfellow.....Massachusetts
- 62. Mrs. Robert Campbell, died 1882.....Missouri

**1880.**

- 63. Mrs. Ida A. Richardson.....Louisiana

**1882.**

- 64. Mrs. Ella S. Herbert, died 1884.....Alabama

**1885.**

- 65. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Adams Rathbone.....Michigan
- 66. Mrs. Mary T. Leiter.....Illinois
- 67. Mrs. Janet De Kay King, died 1896.....Vermont
- 68. Mrs. Eliza Woodward, died 1897.....Kentucky

**1888.**

- 69. Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys.....Delaware
- 70. Mrs. Fanny Gilchrist Baker, died 1901.....Florida

1889.

- 71. Mrs. Alice Hill, died August 1908.....Colorado
- 72. Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau.....Minnesota
- 73. Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst.....California

1890.

- 74. Mrs. A. R. Winder, died 1906, May.....New Hampshire

1891.

- 75. Mrs. Georgia Page Wilder.....Georgia

This was the last nomination of Mrs. Lily Macalester Laughton,  
second Regent (Madame Berghman).

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MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND.

Third Regent.

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Vice Regents Appointed 1893.

- 76. Mrs. George R. Goldsborough, resigned 1904, died 1906.....  
Maryland
- 77. Mrs. J. Dundas Lippincott, died 1894.....Pennsylvania
- 78. Miss Mary Lloyd Pendleton, resigned 1897.....Ohio
- 79. Mrs. Philip Schuyler, resigned 1891.....New York
- 80. Mrs. Christine Blair Graham.....Missouri
- 81. Mrs. Francis S. Conover.....New Jersey
- 82. Mrs. Mary Polk Yeatman Webb.....Tennessee

1894.

- 83. Miss Leila Herbert, died 1897.....Alabama

1895.

- 84. Mrs. Robert H. Clarkson, resigned 1900; died 1902....Nebraska
- 85. Mrs. William Ames, died 1904.....Rhode Island
- 86. Miss Amy Townsend.....New York

1896.

- 87. Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison.....Pennsylvania
- 88. Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey.....Texas

1898

89. Mrs. James E. Campbell, resign

1900

90. Mrs. R. D. Johnston .....  
91. Mrs. C. F. Manderson.....  
92. Mrs. E. Van Rensselaer.....

1901

93. Mrs. J. J. Pringle.....  
94. Mrs. Wm. F. Barret.....  
95. Mrs. Chas. Denby, died Dec. 26

1902

96. Mrs. Henry W. Rogers.....

1907

97. Mrs. Frances Jones Ricks....  
98. Mrs. Lewis Irwin .....  
99. Mrs. J. Carter Brown.....

1908

100. Miss Mary F. Failing.....  
101. Mrs. Eliza F. Leary.....

1909

102. Mrs. A. B. Andrews.....







1910

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

*Mount Vernon Ladies' Association  
of the Union*

HELD AT

MOUNT VERNON-ON-THE-POTOMAC

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA.

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*May 12 to 21, 1910*



**OFFICERS**  
OF THE  
**MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION**  
**OF THE UNION**

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**HONORARY REGENT.**

**MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND, New York.**

**REGENT.**

**MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, "The Green," Dover, Del.**

**VICE REGENTS.**

**MRS. SUSAN E. J. HUDSON, Connecticut.**

**MRS. MARY T. BARNES, District of Columbia.**

**MRS. CHARLES B. BALL, Virginia.**

**MRS. JENNIE M. WARD, Kansas.**

**MISS ALICE M. LONGFELLOW, Massachusetts.**

**MRS. ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Michigan.**

**MRS. MARY T. LEITER, Illinois.**

**MRS. REBECCA B. FLANDRAU, Minnesota.**

**MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, Delaware.**

**MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST, California.**

**MRS. J. J. WILDER, Georgia.**

**MRS. CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM, Missouri.**

**MRS. FRANCIS S. CONOVER, New Jersey.**

**MRS. THOMAS SHAPARD WEBB, SR., Tennessee.**

**MISS AMY TOWNSEND, New York.**

**MRS. CHARLES CUSTIS HARRISON, Pennsylvania.**

**MRS. THOMAS S. MAXEY, Texas.**

**MRS. ROBERT D. JOHNSTON, Alabama.**

MRS. CHARLES F. MANDERSON, Nebraska.  
 MRS. EUGENE VAN RENSSELAER, West Virginia.  
 MRS. JOHN JULIUS PRINGLE, South Carolina.  
 MRS. WILLIAM F. BARRET, Kentucky.  
 MRS. HENRY W. ROGERS, Maryland.  
 MRS. LEWIS W. IRWIN, Ohio.  
 MRS. FRANCES J. RICKS, Mississippi.  
 MISS MARY F. FAILING, Oregon.  
 MRS. ELIZA F. LEARY, Washington.  
 MRS. J. CARTER BROWN, Rhode Island.  
 MRS. A. B. ANDREWS, North Carolina.

#### **RECORDING SECRETARY.**

MRS. HENRY W. ROGERS, Rider P. O., Baltimore Co., Md.

#### **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.**

MRS. JOHN JULIUS PRINGLE, "Chicora Wood," Plantersville,  
 Georgetown Co., S. C.

#### **TREASURER.**

MR. E. FRANCIS RIGGS, Washington, D. C.

#### **RESIDENT SUPERINTENDENT.**

MR. HARRISON H. DODGE, Mt. Vernon-on-Potomac, Va.

#### **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT.**

MR. JAMES YOUNG, Mt. Vernon-on-Potomac, Va.

#### **RESIDENT ENGINEER.**

MR. JAMES R. ARCHER, Mt. Vernon-on-Potomac, Va.

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER, Supreme Court, Washington, D. C.  
 MR. LEWIS CASS LEDYARD, 2 East 87th St., New York City, N. Y.  
 HON. GEORGE GRAY, Wilmington, Delaware.

1910

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION

OF THE UNION

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The Board of Regents of the Association met in Annual Council on Thursday, May 12, 1910. Twenty-one ladies being present.

Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys, Regent, Delaware.

Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson, Vice Regent, Connecticut.

Mrs. Charles B. Ball, Vice Regent, Virginia.

Mrs. Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone, Vice Regent, Michigan.

Mrs. J. J. Wilder, Vice Regent, Georgia.

Mrs. Christine Blair Graham, Vice Regent, Missouri.

Mrs. Francis S. Conover, Vice Regent, New Jersey.

Mrs. Thomas S. Webb, Vice Regent, Tennessee.

Miss Amy Townsend, Vice Regent, New York.

Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey, Vice Regent, Texas.

Mrs. Robert D. Johnston, Vice Regent, Alabama.

Mrs. Charles F. Manderson, Vice Regent, Nebraska.

Mrs. John Julius Pringle, Vice Regent, South Carolina.

Mrs. William F. Barret, Vice Regent, Kentucky.

Mrs. Henry W. Rogers, Vice Regent, Maryland.

Mrs. Lewis W. Irwin, Vice Regent, Ohio.

Mrs. Frances J. Ricks, Vice Regent, Mississippi.

Miss Mary F. Failing, Vice Regent, Oregon.

Mrs. Eliza F. Leary, Vice Regent, Washington.

Mrs. J. Carter Brown, Vice Regent, Rhode Island.

Mrs. A. B. Andrews, Vice Regent, North Carolina.

The sudden death of Mr. E. Francis Riggs, Treasurer of the Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association, occurred on July 6, 1910, and is recorded with profound sorrow. The loss of such a valuable officer will be deeply felt.

Chief Justice Fuller, a member of the Advisory Committee, died July 4, 1910.

These two sad events having occurred after the adjournment of Council, no official action can be taken until the next Session.

## REGENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

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### LADIES:

It is with very sincere pleasure that I welcome you to our annual Council this year, but, alas! it has become my sad duty, before entering upon my report, to announce the death of Mrs. Richardson, Vice Regent for Louisiana, who for thirty years had been one of the most able members on our Board. She represented the highest type of womanhood; was a true friend, dignified, gentle, refined and tender hearted, with marked courage and strength of character. At our Councils we shall miss her wise judgment and foresight. She stood firmly for her convictions and never yielded her point so long as she felt she was right. Underlying all of this was a joyous, humorous spirit that captivated the hearts of those who knew her. Her love for Mount Vernon and its traditions was intense, and she never wearied in her special endeavor to kindle a patriotic feeling in the hearts of the school children of New Orleans and have them taught to revere the name of Washington and to be interested in his home. Through her influence many of our most beautiful and valuable relics have been returned to Mount Vernon, and we are also indebted to her for the original portrait of Washington, by Gilbert Stuart. This noble Christian gentlewoman has left a marvelous record of charitable work carried on unostentatiously in Louisiana that has rarely, if ever, been surpassed in generosity and unselfishness. She was one whom we dearly loved and honored and for whom we cherish the sweetest memories.

Until within the last few days I confidently hoped that it would be our privilege to have our dear Honorary Regent, Mrs. Townsend, with us this year, to help us with her rare judgment and counsel. She writes me, however, that her family consider it unwise to risk overtaxing her strength by making the journey just now. We trust that next year she may meet with us here, surrounded, as she expresses it, "by all that has grown sacred to each of us." Soon after she had recovered from an illness last summer her home at Southampton was destroyed by fire, with all of its contents, including many valuable heirlooms. A merciful Providence saved her and her family from harm or serious after effects, and when I saw her in New York in December she was very well and deeply interested in our Mount Vernon affairs and very helpful in giving me the benefit of her experience and advice on certain questions we talked over together.

By virtue of my office many times during the year I have been called upon to decide important questions that could not be postponed for action by Council. The first of these of special consequence was in regard to making an increase in the insurance on our relics. So many



of great value have come into our possession recently, that when our triennial insurance fell due in July, I sanctioned an increase of fourteen thousand dollars (\$14,000) on this special item. At about the same time, in accordance with an act of Council in 1894, I granted the request of Mrs. Howard, of Alexandria, Virginia, that the name of her grandmother should be cut on the tomb which she erected at Mount Vernon in memory of her husband—John Augustine Washington, Sr. Mrs. Howard's letter, you will find, explains satisfactorily why this was not attended to before by her sister, Mrs. Hunter, to whom the permission was granted sixteen years ago.

Our year has been a prosperous one at Mount Vernon, although last summer the number of visitors was lessened on account of the Seattle exposition, which attracted travellers in that direction. Early in July Mr. Dodge found it necessary to accompany his ill daughter to the Adirondacks. The ten days spent in that bracing mountain air gave a much-needed rest before supervising the work Council ordered, which it was important to have completed as early in the year as possible. That of the most serious nature was repairing the deer park wall on the steep hillside, which in sections of its entire length of seven hundred and fifty (750) feet was decidedly out of plumb, as you know. All of the details of this work, which you will find in our Superintendent's report, are most interesting, as is the little sketch made for me, which clearly shows the admirable methods adopted by our able Engineer, Mr. Archer, in safeguarding this structure from injurious effects of frost and erosion in the future. We may feel confident that repair and expense in this direction will not be required for many years to come. This work was finished before Mr. Dodge took his vacation in August and September. During these months Mount Vernon was under the careful and very efficient management of our Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Young, who faithfully discharged the duties of superintendent in Mr. Dodge's absence.

The special night watchman has greatly relieved other guards who share this duty. All employees are faithful in performing their work here.

In October, I came to Mount Vernon and carefully inspected and had explained to me the details of the work of importance ordered by Council, which you will find is more satisfactory in every particular. Although in July and August there had been little rain throughout this section of the country, Mount Vernon was very beautiful. The condition of the lawns and gardens proved that every attention necessary had been given them in order to preserve their freshness. We have an ample supply of water and hose, which had been freely used, so that the effect, after so prolonged a drought, was unusual. Mr. Whelan has been specially successful this year with his roses and carnations in the greenhouses, but, unfortunately, few visitors were here in the winter to enjoy their fragrance and beauty when they

were in perfection. The garden under his charge you will find in exquisite order. We have the promise of a more brilliant bloom there next autumn, as Mrs. Brown has presented additional hardy chrysanthemums and asters from old-fashioned gardens in Rhode Island. The restoration of the brick platform within the gates, and the brick steps on the terraces decidedly improves the appearance of the Kitchen Garden and adds to its interest.

The winter was unusually severe in this latitude, but no harm came to Mount Vernon. Our historic trees and box hedges about which we feel so much anxiety in stormy weather remain uninjured. Our officers and employees keep faithful watch and ward over this sacred spot, all loving the work as only those who have had experience here can understand. We have been successful in our endeavor to prevent illness by maintaining the place in as perfect a sanitary condition as is possible. The stone wall—the gift of the Vice Regent for California—which protects our river front, has enabled us to fill in the low swampland and change it into a successful pasture; consequently, our employees no longer have chills and fever, which rendered life here almost unendurable in former years during the summer and autumn months. All of our drinking water now comes from the artesian well and is pronounced to be absolutely pure by experts. Last November it was found necessary to make a change and bring the water which supplies the kitchen pump direct from the artesian well. This was attended to as soon as it was found advisable. In December I made a second visit to Mount Vernon, finding all well and prosperous here. In April I came again. On account of the extremely early spring, vegetation was so far advanced that many of the flowers were already coming into bloom, which we usually find in perfection here in the middle of May. Others, notably native shrubs, were in full bloom. We never see these unless we chance to make a special visit here before our annual meeting.

As the years go by we are more and more impressed with the fact that a growing desire is manifested on the part of those who possess Washington relics to have them returned to Mount Vernon. Our annual reports show that our collection has been materially increased of late years. Last winter letters received by me from lawyers representing the Executor of Miss Margaret B. Smith, of Washington, conveyed the information that in her last will and testament Miss Smith made the following bequest: "I give and bequeath to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, a body corporate, a chair which was once the property of General George Washington; a quilt, a china tea set, known in the family as the Washington china; a china bowl, with plated stand, known as the Dandridge Christening Bowl; the desk given to Mrs. Washington by her niece, Margaret Dandridge, who was afterwards wife of Doctor William Halyburton. Also a miniature of Mrs. George Washington, and a manuscript letter from Tobias Lear,

written to his mother, giving an account of the death of Washington." It is a condition of this bequest that the chair, the quilt and the china above referred to shall be marked:

**"USED BY GENERAL AND MRS. WASHINGTON AT MOUNT VERNON. TO THE MEMORY OF HENRIETTA ELIZABETH SMITH, GRANDNIECE OF MARTHA WASHINGTON, DAUGHTER OF COM-MODORE JOHN DANDRIDGE HENLEY, AND WIFE OF J. BAYARD H. SMITH, ESQ."**

The necessary release required by the Executor was signed by your Regent that these valuable relics might be sent to Mount Vernon.

On May third another important letter came. This was from Dr. Walter A. McClurg, Medical Director, U. S. Army, offering authentic relics bequeathed by his wife to this Association "For place within the Mansion at Mount Vernon." I also signed the following receipt required by the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia:

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 3, 1910.

Received from Walter A. McClurg, William Allen Butler, Jr., and J. Herbert Carpenter, Executors of the last will and testament of Edmonia Mason McClurg, deceased, the articles specifically bequeathed to us in and by the said will, as follows:

"Item—I give and bequeath to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union the drawing or plot of Mount Vernon made by George Washington; Houdon's bust of Washington; Gilbert Stuart's portrait of La Fayette, and Houdon's portrait of Benjamin Franklin; all to be kept in the Mansion at Mount Vernon in memory of my late husband, Theodore B. M. Mason, of the United States Navy."

In addition to the gifts left to Mount Vernon in the will of Mrs. McClurg, the executors have presented the following articles:

A steel engraving from Gainsborough's portrait of Admiral Vernon, together with a print of the coat of arms of Vernon.

We are most fortunate in having found at the Corcoran Art Gallery an expert who has succeeded in strengthening the original bust of Washington moulded by Houdon in 1785, which was presented to our Association by Mr. John Augustine Washington, when he left Mount Vernon fifty years ago. Owing to the fact that it is made of inferior clay we have hitherto been unsuccessful in finding one who has been fitted to undertake the task. I was assured that Mr. Paladini felt confident of his ability to do what was required, and it was arranged that he should come at once to Mount Vernon for this work, which was accomplished in the presence of our Superintendent, with the result that it again is possible for us to place it where it may be seen by visitors. Our efforts six years ago to save our historic cornerstone from disintegration without removing it from its original position proved unsuccessful. It, also, has been placed in one of our relic cases.

After many fruitless efforts, Mr. Dodge has been able to secure hand-made shingles suitable for reroofing the Mansion. Ten thousand extra ones were ordered for reroofing other original buildings when required. It is almost impossible to secure them anywhere.

There was also an additional expense on account of extra work required to make the wharf absolutely safe, as you will learn from Mr. Dodge's report, but the repairs on the deer park wall and needful sanitary changes were completed at much less cost than was thought possible when estimates were submitted to our Finance Committee last May. None of this work interfered with the boat, which ceased her regular trips the last of December and resumed the 22nd of February.

Handsome floral tributes were placed upon the Tomb on different occasions by distinguished foreigners who came, some privately and others as guests of the Nation to do honor to the memory of Washington. Representatives of the President and Vice President of the United States, the Masons, and patriotic societies placed wreaths on the sarcophagus on Decoration Day, Independence Day, and Washington's Birthday. On this last named day we received as our guests the Secretary of War, who represented the President of the United States; the Governor of Virginia and his staff, accompanied by representative Masons from different States of the Union, who met in Alexandria for the purpose of perfecting a plan to erect there a Masonic Memorial to George Washington, the Mason. In coming to Mount Vernon to place wreaths upon the Tomb of our hero, they observed a ceremony which formed part of their program for the day.

The very handsome and entirely suitable case presented by our Vice Regent for Missouri for the Washington Bible and Prayer Book is most advantageously placed in the Library, where visitors may easily read the interesting records:

We are always indebted to our Treasurer, Mr. Riggs, but especially so this year. His report will give you the details of his management of our finances in meeting the extraordinary expenses in connection with dredging the boat channel and repairing the deer park wall. Although some months our receipts were not sufficient to cover our expenses, we have a fair balance in our treasury and no debts to confront us at the beginning of our fiscal year.

Through our Superintendent's monthly reports of work accomplished; his financial statements, and the constant correspondence between us in regard to questions that must be decided at once, I have been kept in very close touch with all that transpires at Mount Vernon throughout the year, and it is with great pleasure that I record my appreciation of his never-tiring faithfulness over our interests here and of his rare ability in the management of the estate.

But few of our Vice Regents were able to accept the invitations extended to the members of our Association by the Ranier Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to be present at the unveiling of the Statue of Washington in the Exposition Grounds at Seattle last June. In October the President of the King's Mountain Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, invited your Regent to their celebration of the completion of the monument erected by

the United States Government on King's Mountain Battlefield, York County, South Carolina. In connection with this ceremony the State Regent of the North Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution invited me to be present at their state conference, and to accompany them to King's Mountain, and the King's Mountain Chapter invited me to be their guest during the State Conference which met in Charlotte, North Carolina, October 5th and 6th. I regretted it was impossible for me to accept any of these courteous invitations.

The interest throughout the country in Mount Vernon and the work of this Association increases every year. Descendants of those who were appointed by the Vice Regents before 1860 in the different states to hold the temporary office of Lady Manager, until the purchase money was secured, show just pride when they learn that, in reply to their inquiries, the names of all who aided Vice Regents in their work at that special time, are to be found here, in *The Record*, which was published in Philadelphia for the Association from January, 1859, to July, 1860. Early Vice Regents and many of their successors have presented files of this very important paper to their State Historical Societies, which is highly appreciated, as is also the fact that our Annual Reports, distributed by our Vice Regents, are likewise to be found in State libraries.

Before closing my report I must remind you that this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of actual possession by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union of the Home and Grave of Washington. After years of untiring labor on the part of that most distinguished band of first chosen Vice Regents who began their work in 1853, under the leadership of "The Southern Matron," the necessary purchase money was secured, and in 1860 the Association redeemed its first pledge to the Nation—Mount Vernon was paid for. That which has been accomplished here in the long years since then proves that the second pledge—to restore Mount Vernon to its original condition as enjoyed by Washington, has also been redeemed. We, who represent the Association today, stand on the threshold of another half century imbued with the same spirit which guided so successfully those who have preceded us in this beautiful work. The obligations that bind us, and will bind our successors, are to provide for "Annual Maintenance, Constant Security, Constant Repair," bearing in mind always these words in the Farewell Address of our Founder and First Regent, Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham—"Ladies, the home of Washington is in your charge; see to it that you keep it the home of Washington. Let no irreverant hand change it; no vandal hands desecrate it with the fingers of progress! Those who go to the home in which he lived and died wish to see in what he lived and died."

It is my earnest prayer that God may grant us right judgment in our deliberations and guide us in the future as in the past; that we may be found worthy successors to those who closely followed these instructions, and have left us no problems to solve, no work to undo.

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS.

## MEMORIAL

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**MRS. IDA A. RICHARDSON, VICE REGENT FOR LOUISIANA,**  
**Died April 10, 1910,**  
**At her residence in New Orleans.**

Another year has passed away since we last met at Mount Vernon, and with it has passed the true and beautiful Christian spirit of our dear friend, Mrs. Richardson.

Her life was a model of rare simplicity and integrity of character, and of noble purpose. Throughout the South tributes of veneration and gratitude were paid to her, who was pre-eminently identified with benefactions, both to charities, to patriotic and to educational causes. Her good works in New Orleans were innumerable. There she organized the Woman's Auxiliary, the Christian Woman's Exchange, both of which were carried to successful issues through her leadership and aid. She was the President of the St. Anna's Asylum for Orphan and Homeless Children, which owed much to her generous support, and helped to establish the Frances Joseph Gaudet Industrial School for Negroes, feeling that for the most part, the negroes had proven loyal to their owners in the trying days of the war and their descendants deserved the interest and aid of the white people of the South.

Mrs. Richardson was one of the founders of the Tulane University and her princely gifts to that University, of a medical building in memory of her husband, Dr. Richardson, and the endowment of a chair of botany, were made in the unostentatious manner so characteristic of her.

In addition to her interest in all charitable and educational causes, she was a woman of unbounded patriotism. As Vice Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, she succeeded year after year in awakening patriotic pride in the pupils of the public schools of New Orleans in its aims and purposes. The summer house overlooking the Potomac was built by them. Through her efforts came some of the most valuable Washington relics to Mount Vernon—notably the Stuart portrait of Washington. Mount Vernon was one of the deepest interests of her life and she longed to see it once more; she was preparing to come when the summons came.

The good she has done lives after her; the friends she has left behind will ever carry her in their hearts. The question she asked of life was "Is it right?" And the glory of the answer has been given to her in the words of the hymn she repeated to me on the last Sunday she spent at Mount Vernon:

Now the laborer's task is o'er,  
 Now the battle day is past;  
 Now upon the farther shore  
 Lands the voyager at last.  
 Father, in thy gracious keeping  
 Leave we now, thy servant sleeping.

**MARY POLK YEATMAN WEBB,**  
 Vice Regent for Tennessee.

## STATE REPORTS

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### ALABAMA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Alabama reports the gift from the school children of the state of a wedge wood pitcher with scenes from the life of Washington in bas relief. It is very old and may have been a memorial pitcher, many of them having been made at the time of Washington's death.

A most interesting occasion was the opening of a handsome school building on the 22nd of February, when your Vice Regent, by request of the school committee, made a talk on the work of the Association. The school was presented with one of the old flags from Mount Vernon, which was raised amid impressive ceremonies, and will be kept sacred and used only on special occasions.

A file of Mount Vernon reports was sent to the State Historical Society.

Continual efforts are being made to place a portrait of Washington in every school.

Respectfully submitted,

LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON,

Vice Regent for Alabama.

### CONNECTICUT STATE REPORT.

The reports of the Association were sent freely through this State, also to Americans in Europe, and a copy to the Librarian of Congress. Chintz for curtains to the bedstead in the Connecticut room and to cover the chairs was supplied.

Respectfully submitted,

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON,

Vice Regent for Connecticut.

### GEORGIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice-Regent for Georgia has only to report having all the Mount Vernon reports bound and presenting them to the public libraries of Savannah and Atlanta and Athens.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,

Vice-Regent for Georgia.



### KANSAS STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Kansas sincerely regrets that illness prevents her being present at the Council.

She has done what she could to assist the growth of interest in Mount Vernon. Requests for information have been received and responded to.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIE M. WARD,

Vice Regent for Kansas.

### KENTUCKY STATE REPORT.

I report a gift of \$10.00 made to the Kentucky room at Mount Vernon by the Sons of the American Revolution of Louisville, Kentucky.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGARETTA BARRET,

Vice Regent for Kentucky.

### MARYLAND STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Maryland regrets to come empty handed to Mount Vernon this year. Reports have been widely distributed to many public libraries and historical societies throughout the country. A growing interest is shown in Mount Vernon and the demand for complete files for libraries will compel a new edition of some numbers that are exhausted. The librarian of the Connecticut State Library sent two books: one a report of the State Library, and the other an illustrated account of the laying of the corner stone of the new library building at Hartford, with addresses by distinguished speakers.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS,

Vice Regent for Maryland.

### MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Massachusetts regrets that she has been unable to undertake anything for Mount Vernon this year worthy of being put in a report.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE M. LONGFELLOW,

Vice Regent for Massachusetts.

### MICHIGAN STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Michigan reports a contribution of \$300.00 from the Detroit Mount Vernon Society, for the work at Mount Vernon. This Society, which was organized by the Vice Regent in 1891, with the object of putting her State work for the Association on a



permanent basis, so that it could be more easily carried on by her successors, has now rendered nineteen years of generous, patriotic service, which has enabled the Vice Regent to do some valuable work for Mount Vernon. The contributions of the Society since its organization have amounted to about \$4,500.00, and its membership now numbers one hundred and eighty-one earnest, interested, patriotic women, who take pleasure and pride in celebrating appropriately Washington's Birthday and furnishing funds for Mount Vernon work.

The Vice Regent distributes two or three dozen of the Mount Vernon reports to this Society annually, and the members read them with interest.

The Vice Regent felt called upon, as did other Vice Regents, to make a statement in her State newspapers refuting charges made against the Association by the "Anti-fee Association," and showing reason why Mount Vernon could neither become the property of the general government, nor do away with the entrance fee, which not only furnishes it with an income, but also a protection from the desecration of irresponsible visitors.

The Vice Regent will apply the funds contributed last year, and this year to the purchase of the Mary Bell Washington chair, which has been for some years in General Washington's bed room, loaned to the Association by the owner, Colonel De Languel, but which he now feels obliged to dispose of, offering it to the Association for \$1,000.00. This chair is said to be the oldest piece of furniture at Mount Vernon, and was owned by his mother when George Washington was an infant.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,

Vice Regent for Michigan.

### MINNESOTA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Minnesota reports the gift to the Mount Vernon Association of ten dollars (\$10.00) from the Colonial Dames' Society in Minnesota. The Vice Regent regrets her unavoidable absence from Council this year.

Respectfully submitted,

REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,

Vice Regent for Minnesota.

### MISSISSIPPI STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Mississippi reports that she has offered prizes to ten public schools in the largest towns in Mississippi for the best essay on "The Home of Washington," to be competed for by the highest class each year, the prize essay to be read, and the prize awarded,

as a part of the exercises in honor of Washington's Birthday, and is gratified by the enthusiasm displayed by some of the Superintendents in accepting the proposition submitted to them.

In pursuance of this plan she has distributed the Reports apportioned to her to these schools, and will furnish other information when requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES JONES RICKS.

Vice Regent for Mississippi.

### MISSOURI STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Missouri reports a gift of a printed copy of the "Inventory of the Contents of Mount Vernon in 1810," from Mr. W. K. Bixby, of St. Louis; also a volume of articles written for the New York Ledger by Mr. Edward Everett entitled "Mount Vernon Papers," printed in 1860, presented by Miss Lillian Mason Brown, of St. Louis.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM,

Vice Regent for Missouri.

### NEBRASKA STATE REPORT.

In the western part of our country there is an increasing interest in Mount Vernon and desire for information concerning it. A very general impression that the Associations known as the Daughters of the Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Colonial Dames, and others, acquired and have charge of Mount Vernon is gradually being eradicated as the truthful history of the acquisition and preservation is better known. Some late magazine articles on this subject have exerted interest and it would be advantageous could the facts concerning the preservation of Mount Vernon be known the country over.

Reports were received and distributed as usual.

Respectfully submitted,

REBEKAH S. MANDERSON,

Vice Regent for Nebraska.

### NEW JERSEY STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for New Jersey has distributed the reports of the Mount Vernon Association in her state and done all she could in the way of giving information and arousing interest in the work. She has received two donations of ten dollars each from the Boudenot Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Elizabeth; also, two dollars from other friends.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN F. CONOVER,

Vice Regent for New Jersey.

### NEW YORK STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for New York State reports the gift from Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan of a porcelain mug from which General Washington drank milk and cider at midday meal. The interesting letter sent with the mug was written by Mrs. Butler, who was Miss Frances Park Custis Lewis, wife of Colonel Edward Butler, and the eldest daughter of Nellie Custis.

Owing to a visit to Mount Vernon, a feeling of patriotism, and a desire to contribute in some manner, Miss Elizabeth Stewart Hamilton has given two large gilt frames for pictures that are placed in the Banquet Hall of General Washington.

The Washington chair has been inherited by its present owner, Miss L. Chauncey, of New York, directly from Mrs. Bushrod Washington; it is a genuine Chippendale, and bears an ornamental silver plate with the dates of General Washington's birth and death, and his arms engraved on it. Through the generosity of two ladies in New York and several Vice Regents this very interesting chair has again been placed in the dear old home.

I came to Mount Vernon in April, and enjoyed the delicious asparagus from our Kitchen Garden, which was found far advanced and in perfect order. The flower garden also gave evidence of greatest care.

Respectfully submitted,

AMY TOWNSEND,

Vice Regent for New York.

### NORTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for North Carolina reports the distribution of Mount Vernon literature (Reports for 1909, and the sketch of Miss Cunningham), which has been appreciatively received by state officials, public libraries and schools.

The Record Committee's acceptance is asked of an invitation to an excursion to the Home and Tomb of the Father of his Country received by the Hon. L. O'B. Branch, a member from North Carolina from 1855, in the thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions of our National Congress, found in files of his personal papers. This Mount Vernon record was given me by his daughter; also, the Alexandria, Va., newspaper clipping regarding the price paid for Mount Vernon.

In the North Carolina Room the bed has been almost entirely furnished, towels added and a rug placed on the floor.

Respectfully submitted,

JULIA M. ANDREWS,

Vice Regent for North Carolina.

### OHIO STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Ohio reports the distribution of Annual Reports to libraries and universities throughout the State, and has also given information concerning Mount Vernon to the Toledo Chapter, D. A. R.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE D. IRWIN,

Vice Regent for Ohio.

### OREGON STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Oregon reports the distribution of Annual Reports for 1909 to the Library Association of Portland, Oregon, and through the Secretary of the State Library Commission to State colleges and libraries; also, to private individuals. Postals were given on Washington's Birthday to children at the Library Association; also, to a patriotic league of newsboys which holds its meetings at the People's Institute, where settlement work is carried on. Increased private interest is manifested in the work of the Association.

Plates to match the cups and saucers used for afternoon tea have been sent for use at the Mansion.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY F. FAILING,

Vice Regent for Oregon.

### RHODE ISLAND STATE REPORT.

Beyond the distribution of information and literature concerning Mount Vernon, there is nothing to report by the Vice Regent for Rhode Island.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNIE C. A. BROWN,

Vice Regent for Rhode Island.

### SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for South Carolina has to report her effort to execute the duty and honor placed upon her to carry out the courteous desire of the Regent and Vice Regents to place an inscription on the tomb of our Founder and first Regent at Columbia, South Carolina. Having been informed by Mrs. Robertson that there was a space left upon it for such an inscription, the Vice Regent visited the tomb of Miss Cunningham in the capital of our State, and then went to see the niece of our Founder, to tell her of the beautiful inscription which the Regent and Vice Regents had deputed her to have placed upon the tomb, paying all expenses on behalf of the Association. Miss Floride Cunningham received the proposal with great coldness, and absolutely declined to permit any inscription to be added to the tombstone, which

she said had been erected by the members of the family of our Founder and therefore was a strictly individual tribute to their noble relative.

It remains, therefore, only for me, in the name of my state, to thank this body for their offer to honor in this way our Founder and First Regent.

Respectfully submitted,  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,  
Vice-Regent for South Carolina.

### TEXAS STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Texas regrets that another year has passed with nothing to report, except the distributing of Mount Vernon literature.

Respectfully submitted,  
FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
Vice Regent for Texas.

### VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Virginia can report no gifts from her State. She has written some articles for the press, concerning the Association.

It gives pleasure to report the action taken by the Association for the Preservation of Antiquities, and also of the Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Virginia. These two societies passed resolutions of commendation and admiration of the successful work of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, expressing confidence in this Council.

In view of the unjust aspersions upon the Mother of Washington, I have collated and brought to this Council historical facts, supported by the Colonial Records of Virginia, that disprove incorrect biographical writings, and throw new light upon the youthful days of Washington at Mount Vernon.

Respectfully submitted,  
EMMA REED BALL,  
Vice Regent for Virginia.

### WASHINGTON STATE REPORT.

There seems but very little for the new Vice Regent to do. The annual reports of the Association were distributed to schools and libraries. The historical sketch of Miss Cunningham has been given to a number of young people who had just learned of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. I have given "Talks" on Mount Vernon to three Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and great interest is now being manifested in the grand work being accomplished by these women.

Respectfully submitted,  
ELIZA F. LEARY,  
Vice Regent for Washington.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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MOUNT VERNON-ON-THE-POTOMAC,  
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

April 30, 1910.

*To the Regent and Vice Regents  
of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.*

LADIES: I have the honor of presenting herewith my report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1910.

The tide of travel last summer attracted toward the Pacific coast by the exposition at Seattle, greatly reduced the number visiting Mount Vernon. Our records, however, show a total of 102,059.

Notable among the pilgrims were—

Vice Admiral Baron Uriu, and Baroness Uriu.

Prince Kuni, of Japan.

The Honorable Commercial Commission from Japan (90 persons).

Special ambassadors from Turkey.

The Chinese Imperial Military Commission.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

The Society of the Cincinnati.

The Sons of Signers of Declaration of Independence.

The Daughters of American Revolution.

The Children of American Revolution.

Masonic lodges of Alexandria and Fredericksburg.

The Washington Memorial Association.

The Washington Birthday Association.

The Chamber of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

The B'nai B'rith Society.

This list is recalled to mind by the handsome floral tributes deposited at the Tomb.

On Decoration Day floral wreaths were received from the White House and from Vice President Sherman.

The memorial service held at the Tomb on this occasion, under the auspices of the "Sons of the Signers," was a very impressive affair.

The various projects of repair and improvement arranged for at last Council had my earnest attention and are here noted.

### DEER PARK WALL.

The deer park wall was the most serious undertaking. This wall is 750 feet in length and 5 feet shows on face above ground. By erosion of the steep hillside the support of the old foundation was weakened

and frost action on the higher, or walk side of the wall, forced it out of equilibrium. For the entire length a strong concrete revestment footing was constructed to prevent any future movement of the foundation, and at intervals of about 50 feet heavy iron stay-rods from plates on front of the wall were anchored to concrete piers concealed on opposite side of walk. Next the brickwork (on walk side) trenches two feet wide were filled with coarse gravel, as blind drains, with vents for the water at proper points, thus effectually preventing heaving by frost.

The heavy iron fence had to be removed, the stone coping entirely reset, fence readjusted and securely stayed with iron braces bolted through the brickwork below. The finishing job was the repointing of defective joints on the stretches of wall not disturbed by frost, and repainting of the iron fence.

#### PUBLIC TOILETS.

The sanitary condition of the public toilet rooms was, as I reported to Council, very unsatisfactory, in fact dangerous to health.

At the time I discussed this subject with the committee my information, based upon the reports of experts who had examined the situation, was to the effect that we could not safely place modern plumbing in these outhouses without some means of heating the same. This would only be possible by extending the mains of our hot water system, a very expensive undertaking. This alternative, however, was obviated by the discovery of a method of frost-proof plumbing which, being satisfactorily guaranteed, was adopted. Seven closets have now been installed—three for women, three for men, and one for servants. The total cost of changing from the obsolete to the new type (including the entire rebuilding of the servants' toilet, reroofing the women's toilet and painting all three rooms) did not exceed \$370.

#### TELEPHONE.

The wires and poles of the three telephone lines centering at the watch room (long distance, local and private), because of unsightly appearance, were changed to an underground system. For a distance of 800 feet properly insulated lead cables were placed underground in suitable pipe conduits, thus eliminating from view a feature subject to criticism as an innovation disturbing to Washington simplicity.

#### PAVEMENTS.

A brick walk was laid connecting with the sunken steps on hillside toward the wharf. In front of the Tomb worn portions of the old paving were renewed, and extensions made to include the Custis-Conrad inclosure.

### NELLY CUSTIS SHAFT.

The brick foundation of the marble shaft at Mrs. Lewis' (Nelly Custis) grave had settled and consequently the superstructure was out of plumb. This foundation was securely rebuilt and shaft straightened.

An inscription to the memory of Mrs. John Augustine Washington by her descendants was cut on one of the monuments in front of the Tomb.

The marble shafts and sarcophagi have been cleaned, the sentry box and benches in front of the Tomb repaired and painted dark green.

At the Summer House the sloping gravel walk was replaced with brick, and in the old Kitchen Garden brick steps and platform were restored at the gateway and terrace.

Where frost action had thrown the tiles and coping of the East Portico of Mansion out of alignment and level, the necessary corrections were made.

### CORNER STONE.

The ancient corner stone of the Mount Vernon Villa (built in 1743) bearing the initials and insignia of Lawrence Washington, because threatened with deterioration, was removed from the cellar and placed in the case in the Green Room where it can be preserved and where visitors can see it. By taking an exact impression and making a cast therefrom in cement the replica (thus obtained) has been set in the original niche in the cellar.

### MANSION SHUTTERS.

The thirty pairs of window blinds of the Mansion were removed, the old paint burned off, woodwork repaired and given two coats of dull green paint matching the doors.

### MISCELLANEOUS PAINTING AND REPAIRS.

The cupola and balustrade of the Mansion were repaired and painted.

Roofs of barn, corn house, wagon shed, carpenter's shop, boiler room, park shelter house, wharf pavilion, greenhouse, Tomb, Mansion colonnades and lodges at West Gate were painted; also the iron fences at Tomb, and windows and gratings at North Lodge Gate, cellar doors, doors, steps, and window frames of various buildings, and hot-bed sash of both gardens.

Pointing cracks in plaster and calcimining was required in rooms furnished by District of Columbia, North Carolina, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Virginia; also in the spinning house, quarters, watch room and kitchen.

Roofs of corn house, ladies' toilet and east entrance to Mansion cellar were resingled and other roofs patched.

Wire screens for doors and windows were provided, and greenhouse staging and ventilators were strengthened.



A stone step laid at north door of the kitchen, and wooden steps made stronger. Close board covers were made for water tanks and hot-beds, walls and fences were whitewashed, fences and board walks repaired, furnace grates cleaned, and covered with rust preventive, when not in use.

Farm wagons, implements and tools were repaired, and the coach supplied with new cover and storm curtains.

Cold frames for flowers were rebuilt and sash reglazed.

Screened ventilators were provided for the basements of employees' cottages, and woodsheds and chicken yards added.

A safe provision for storing and handling lamp oil was achieved by building a small brick addition to the engine room.

Facilities were improved for supplying visitors with good, cool drinking water. This was accomplished by connecting a pipe from the artesian main with a coil or loop located in the bottom of the kitchen well where the temperature was sufficiently low to affect the water agreeably.

In the nature of small repairs accomplished there is an interminable list: Strengthening woodwork where required, touching up painted surfaces, patching roofs, mending fences, repairing implements, attention to eave gutters and drains, overhauling the fire apparatus, pointing cracks in plaster and defective brickwork—in fact, the "stitch-in-time" process seems to be never ending.

#### WHARF REPAIRS.

Unexpected developments of weakness in the wharf cribbing necessitated extensive reconstruction during the winter when the boat was laid off. The four courses of heavy timbers above tide level were rotted and had to be removed. In connection with that work much of the clay filling of the wharf was temporarily removed and the floor timbers strengthened. Concrete piers were built to better support the pavilion and to brace the pivot piles used by the boat. Before replacing the clay fill the crib timbers were coated with a wood preservative and gravel packed next the wood to prevent the rotting effect of clay contact. Subsequently the paving blocks were put back and the pavilion painted.

#### HOUDON BUST.

An object of solicitude for many years has been the experimental bust of Washington made in 1785 by the famous French sculptor.

Being molded in clay simply to test the accuracy of the "life mask" of the General, and perhaps never intended for preservation, it is not surprising that it fell to pieces. Attempts some years ago to restore it were unsuccessful, but recently, through the kindness of the Curator of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, I learned of a Mr. Paladini who, by approval of the Regent, was employed to exert his skill upon this relic.

The repairs were made here in my presence and all the broken parts successfully readjusted.

Should it be decided to give this bust uniform color and thus effect a more truthful likeness this can be achieved by a simple process which would tend to preserve it indefinitely.

#### GROUNDS.

About the grounds there is always much to be done. Lawns must be cut regularly, weeds kept in abeyance, edges of walks and drives kept neatly trimmed, occasional applications of herbicide in cobble gutters to stop weed growth, worn sod to be replaced, honeysuckle and hedges to be clipped, and both the gardens maintained in attractive order.

The wearing away of the sod at certain points by daily visitors is unavoidable. To replace that so defaced is one of our greatest difficulties because of its scarcity in the neighborhood.

Three hundred feet of privet hedge was set as a border of the upper walk to the Tomb, and 100 feet of dwarf barberis flanks the front approach thereto. Some of the crepe myrtles and other shrubs which had overgrown proper limits in the flower garden were transplanted to make room for hardy chrysanthemums, asters, etc. Young cedars were utilized to fill vacancies in the shrubbery screens of the toilet rooms.

The old lattice screen in front of the men's toilet collapsed from decay and has been replaced by metal and wire construction over which ivy is trained.

The stretch of roadway from the gate below the barn to the entrance of the bowling green, the lane to the North Lodge Gate, and a considerable distance of road to West Lodge Gate, required resurfacing with clay gravel.

Screened gravel was applied to the drive back of the quarters and near the Mansion. The rustic guard rail along drive to the wharf needed repairs. Open drain ditches had to be cleaned and additional terra cotta subdrains provided at various points—chiefly one to divert torrential rains from flooding the reclaimed meadow.

#### TREES.

One of the large hemlocks (supposed to have been planted by Washington) at the far end of the bowling green showed a weakness which soon would cause its fall. By stretching an iron cable from high up among its branches to a nearby and strong linden, taking up the strain by proper screw bolts passing through the trunks of each tree, it is hoped the threatened danger is averted. Two trees in their expansion of trunk and roots—an ash, close to the Carpenter Shop, and an elm at the ice House—endangered the foundation walls so that the Regent directed me to remove them. The five North Carolina poplars at wharf were topped to improve their shape and at same time reduce the strain on the wharf.

The weeping willows along the river front of the deer park were pruned and straightened. An extension of the row has been effected by cuttings planted at proper intervals along the entire bank.

Pruning the young maples back of the quarters has given them greater symmetry.

With the recent developments of foliage there appears a peculiar blight affecting certain of the ash and oak trees, the cause of which is being sought.

Upwards of one hundred seedling oaks were shipped to the Washington University at St. Louis at the request of the Vice Regent for Missouri, and sixty to Tennessee on order of the Vice Regent for that State.

To Mrs. Bancroft, of Wilmington, Delaware, were sent in January two oaks—a red oak and a chestnut oak. These were for the Colonial Dames of Delaware to plant in that section of the Wilmington Park specially set apart for historic trees.

To a Mr. Jackson, of Liverpool, I shipped two small oaks to replace what had been formerly sent him but which died.

Looking ahead to possible orders for seedlings from our forest I have prepared several hundred for more successful transplanting by a method of root pruning.

Cedars were transplanted to fill vacancies near the North Lodge Gate and two were planted at the head of the brick steps in the Kitchen Garden. Several red bud trees were moved from our woods to positions along the sunken path to the wharf.

Between the vista and road to the West Lodge Gate the growth of young oaks was thinned to afford better chance for those left to develop.

At favorable opportunities we trimmed trees which required it.

#### FARM.

Our crops last year turned out fairly well. Fourteen acres of corn yielded 105 barrels, while from a similar area in oats 376 bushels were threshed. This grain has subsisted the horses, mules and deer.

For forage we made several tons of hay and utilized the corn fodder after being shredded. Eighteen acres were planted in whippoorwill peas and turned under for enrichment. This lot again was sown in rye and will be plowed this spring for corn. Four acres are sown in timothy and nine acres in oats with mixed grasses for subsequent pasture.

Last year's corn ground (14 acres) I plan to put in peas when the season advances—plowing under the present crop of crimson clover which was sown for enrichment.

The reclaimed swamp was very long in drying sufficiently to admit of horse cultivation. During the winter our men turned the greater portion of the mud crust by hand, leaving it in proper shape for disintegration by freezing and thawing. Last month we were able to

work a team on it and put it in condition to seed. As an advanced crop Kaffir corn was sown broadcast and harrowed in. If the soil is not too sour this should yield abundant forage and prepare this ground for later treatment as a permanent meadow.

The two grass lots east of the Mansion—so unpromising in appearance just a year ago—have finally developed and now give prospect of an excellent crop of hay.

As suggested by the Farm Committee at last Council, I consulted with Secretary Wilson, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, on the subject of expert inspection of our soil with the view of determining what constituent elements were most needed to bring about permanent improvement. While not averse to chemical analysis he urged an increased application of barnyard manure as being the surest method of securing the best results. He advised our maintaining as many cattle as we could shelter in winter, buy the necessary feed (preferably cotton seed meal), carefully compost the manure and apply it to a small acreage at a time, thus gradually widening the area of improvement every year.

All the barnyard compost produced here is of course applied to the soil of gardens or fields. Provision was made to purchase an additional supply but of the several scow loads contracted for last autumn but three cargoes have been delivered.

To stimulate the pastures sown a year ago nitrate of soda was used with good effect.

Crimson clover sown at the final cultivation of corn made excellent start, but its regularity of growth was marked by the drouth of August and September, which was unusually severe.

#### ICE.

A favorable spell of freezing weather in January was taken advantage of to secure a supply of good ice. Seventy-seven wagon loads were hauled from the creek, nearly two miles distant, and packed for summer's use.

#### REFRIGERATOR.

Authorized by last Council a much-needed refrigerator was purchased. This is of porcelain, easily cleaned, and with nothing about it calculated to contaminate its contents.

#### INSURANCE.

Our triennial insurance policies expired in June, 1909. In renewing them for another term of three years the Regent directed increasing the policy on relics (because many of great value had been added to the collection) from \$1,000 to \$15,000.

#### DONATIONS, ETC.

From the Society of Colonial Wars was received a small bronze plaque of "Colonial Washington."

From Mrs. C. W. Rae, a candle shade and six chairs dating back to Washington's time.

From the Vice Regent for Rhode Island, screens for windows and doors of kitchen, also appropriate plants for the garden.

From the Vice Regent for California, a sum of money divided as Christmas presents among the guards and other employees.

From the Vice Regent for Missouri, mahogany stand and glass case for the Bible and Prayer Book.

From the Vice Regent for Oregon, china plates for use of Council.

From Miss Edith Hall, of Washington, a quaint old bed spread.

Through the Vice Regent for New York, gilt frames for the Washington portraits in the Banquet Hall.

From Mrs. George L. Andrews, of Washington, D. C., an unusual print of Washington.

Colonel William Paulding, U. S. A., has loaned the wooden frame, or graduated base, of thermometer which hung in Washington's bedroom when he died.

#### SHINGLES.

After two years of inquiry for the best grade of rived cypress shingles (such as Washington used) for reroofing the Mansion they have at last been located in South Carolina. By approval of the Regent a contract was made with a lumber firm in that State to supply 60,000 shingles, conditionally upon our favorable inspection of them before shipment.

They are promised for the latter part of this month and, if they pass inspection, will cost us \$9.00 per thousand, delivered in Alexandria.

#### BRICKS.

In order to be prepared, should it ever be decided to restore certain of the old brick walls, diligent search has been made for bricks of suitable type. Recently we have chanced upon a fortunate discovery for the purpose, the ruins of a colonial house in Westmoreland County, Virginia, built by Colonel Thornton, one of Washington's friends, and later owned by a Washington. The bricks are said to have been imported from England and are identical in size and color with those in our old barn. They can be obtained and delivered here at a price no greater than modern bricks would cost.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

For your consideration at this session the following subjects are suggested:

The exterior of the Mansion and several of the buildings require painting.

Renewal of defective plaster is advised for some of the bedrooms, with calcimining and painting in others.

The bedroom (in Spinning House) arranged for the Vice Regent for New Hampshire, should be plastered.

Because not an original feature the structure between the Gardener's House and Carpenter's Shop, now used as a hose room, should be removed and facilities for the fire apparatus provided elsewhere.

The need of storage room for material and implements calls for an extension of the present shed west of the barn.

To intercept and carry off water from springs on the north of the reclaimed swamp additional drains are required.

These recommendations I would expect to amend or amplify after the several committees have had an opportunity to consult thereon.

In conclusion of this my twenty-fifth annual report, I beg to renew my assurance of unremitting zeal and to commend those who are associated with me in this worthy cause.

I am particularly grateful to the new Regent for her patient consideration of my vexing correspondence during the interim of Council, and for the wise judgment with which she invariably meets the many problems which are presented for her decision.

I cannot express too deeply the sorrow which was universal at Mount Vernon when the announcement of dear Mrs. Richardson's illness and death reached us. My personal feelings of loss are indescribable.

The accustomed tribute of lowering the flag and sending oral offerings from the old garden she took such pride in, was followed by telegrams of condolence.

It saddens me to contemplate how many of the honored members have been severed from the ranks of the Association since my connection with it, a long list it has now become.

The lovable character and strong personality of Mrs. Richardson will ever be a cherished memory.

I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant,

HARRISON H. DODGE,

Resident Secretary and Superintendent.

## CONDENSED STATEMENT

### FINANCIAL REPORT

For the fiscal year ending April 30th, 1910, the Superintendent's report gives:

Revenue from wharf entrances, 421 @ 25 cents.....	\$ 105.25
Visitors by railway, 56,723 @ 25 cents.....	14,180.75
Visitors by boat, 44,915 @ 25 cents.....	11,228.75
Wharf privileges .....	99.96
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	\$25,614.71
Revenue from other sources.....	19,150.92
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Total .....	\$44,765.63
Total expenditures .....	42,721.57
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Balance .....	\$ 2,044.06

## GARDENER'S REPORT

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MOUNT VERNON, May 12, 1910.

LADIES: The past year has been a most peculiar one, and our Spring is fully a month ahead. The tulips, etc., which I had hoped would assist us in giving you a hearty welcome have blossomed and are gone; peonies, irises, etc., are in full flower, and thus we are recompensed for the loss of the others.

You will notice that I have removed the crepe myrtles and flowering shrubs from the long borders and substituted the hardy herbaceous flowers of the olden time—bleeding hearts, candytuft, larkspur, columbines, etc. These will be succeeded by the bedding plants and the borders will always look attractive, and not crowded.

Receipts for the year.....	\$635.30
Expenditures, for postage, etc.....	7.75
	\$627.55
Cash to Superintendent.....	\$627.55

I am indebted to Mrs. Brown, Vice Regent for Rhode Island, for a number of chrysanthemum plants, which I have placed in the borders, and to Miss Townsend, Vice Regent for New York, for a geranium plant from which I hope to propagate quite a stock.

Hoping that the dear old garden may be found in good condition, and that my efforts may meet with your approval, I am, dear ladies,

Yours faithfully,

FRANKLIN A. WHELAN,

Head Gardener.

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## RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT

For Printing 60 copies of Minutes, and 800 copies of Reports..	\$125.00
Cheque from Regent.....	125.00
	\$250.00

### Office Expenses:

Typewriting .....	\$15.00
Packages to Vice Regents.....	8.17
Express on box of Reports and Minutes to Mt. Vernon....	.40
Postage .....	2.50
Envelopes .....	.35
	\$26.42

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS,

Secretary to Councils.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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### REPORT OF TOMB COMMITTEE.

Your Committee visited and examined both Tombs and find everything in good condition.

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM.  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.  
EMMA R. BALL.  
FRANCES C. MAXEY.  
FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS.

### REPORT OF KITCHEN GARDEN COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Kitchen Garden is much pleased with everything. We suggest that sand should be furnished, as asked for by the Gardener, for the purpose of lightening the soil; also that rosemarys be planted and that floritine iris be made into a border.

Respectfully submitted,

AMY TOWNSEND, Chairman.  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.  
MARY F. FAILING.  
LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON.  
ELIZA F. LEARY.

### REPORT OF THE GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE.

The Garden and Greenhouses are in beautiful order, and only a few suggestions are to be made. These are:

1. That the young arbor vitae trees be removed from the northwest side of the garden and be planted around the outside closets and thus serve as screens.
2. That the inside of the brick foundation of south wall of garden be planted with ivy.
3. That the grass border of one of the flower beds be replaced by ivy.
4. That lavender iris be ordered for the flower beds.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.  
AMY TOWNSEND.  
FRANCIS C. MAXEY.  
ANNE C. A. BROWN.



### REPORT OF MANSION COMMITTEE.

The Committee finds the Mansion in excellent condition.

The following suggestions are made to Council:

1. The exterior of the Mansion, exclusive of shutters, to be painted; cost, \$500.00. Shutters have been painted recently.
2. Repairing defective plaster and weak or worn planks in flooring of passage.
3. Changing interior finish of New Hampshire room.
4. Kitchen floor to have a new surface.
5. Porches added to cottages of employees, \$60 each.
6. To remove the hose room to space between the smokehouse and laundry.

MARGARETTA BARRET, Acting Chairman.  
FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS.  
FRANCES JONES RICKS.  
JULIA M. ANDREWS.

### REPORT OF FURNITURE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee has gone over the house and submits the following suggestions:

In Washington's room, the curtains in dressing room to be cleaned; the old library chair to be repaired, covered with good leather of same color, the nails removed and replaced.

In Florida room, flower stand in window to be removed.

Spare room, bedspread and canopy to be cleaned; also chair cover.

In Maine room, the two yellow chairs, removed from West Parlor, to be upholstered in brocade, of same shade of yellow and returned to where they belong.

Small table in upper hall to be painted white.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.  
ELIZA F. LEARY.  
HELEN F. CONOVER.  
LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON.  
CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM.  
ALICE D. IRWIN.  
AMY TOWNSEND.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION OF RELICS.

A number of relics have been offered for purchase to the Association, through the Committee, which recommends several that are interesting and valuable. Money has been subscribed for the old Washington-Ball chair, which will be purchased for \$1,000.00, from Colonel de Languel, of Alexandria. There is no question of its authenticity.

The Committee recommends the purchase of a Chippendale chair, which was originally in the hall at Mount Vernon. Towards this purchase there has been subscribed by—

Ladies from New York.....	\$300.00
Vice Regent for Missouri .....	100.00
Vice Regent for Oregon .....	100.00
Vice Regent for Washington .....	100.00
Vice Regent for Texas .....	20.00
Vice Regent for Rhode Island .....	30.00
Vice Regent for North Carolina .....	25.00
Vice Regent for Tennessee .....	50.00
	<hr/>
	\$725.00

There remains \*\$75.00 to complete the sum required for the chair and the Committee asks for an appropriation of this amount from Council.

Through the Vice Regent for Rhode Island there is presented by Mrs. S. V. R. Thayer, of Boston, an interesting medallion of an old engraving in miniature of Washington of a framed portrait of Washington, supported by the Goddess of Liberty. This fine old engraving is framed in wood from Mount Vernon. The Committee recommends that the medallion be accepted with grateful thanks.

The purchase of Nellie Custis' high chair, from Mrs. Daingerfield Lewis, is under consideration by the Vice Regent for Oregon, who will secure this interesting relic for Mount Vernon, if the terms she offers (\$250.00) are acceptable to Mrs. Lewis.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.  
 GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.  
 EMMA R. BALL.  
 MARY YEATMAN WEBB.  
 ANNE C. A. BROWN.

\*NOTE—The \$75.00 lacking was contributed by the Vice Regent for Oregon later.

### REPORT OF RELIC COMMITTEE.

The beloved Chairman of our Relic Committee, Mrs. Ida A. Richardson, who has been taken from us to meet the rewards of her many good deeds, and who is deeply mourned, had special care of the relics at Mount Vernon for many years, adding to them many of value. We find the cabinets she had in her care in perfect order and have to report other relics which have been sent to us, or secured by the Vice Regents, as follows:

- A legacy from Mrs. McClurg, of Washington, consists of:
- A map drawn by Washington of his river farm.
- A portrait of Franklin by Houdon.

A portrait of LaFayette by Gilbert Stuart.

A copy of plaster cast of Houdon's bust of Washington.

A copper coffee urn, mounted in silver, presented by Mrs. Julian-James, a sister of Mrs. McClurg.

A porcelain mug, given by Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, presented through the Vice Regent for New York.

A chair, which belonged to the mother of Washington, has been presented by the Vice Regent for Michigan, purchased with funds amounting to one thousand dollars, furnished by the Detroit Mount Vernon Society.

By will of Miss Margaret B. Smith, of Washington, have been received a chair once the property of General Washington; a quilt, a china tea set, known in the family as the Washington china; a china bowl, with plated stand, known as the Dandridge Christening Bowl; the desk given to Mrs. Washington by her niece Margaret Dandridge, who was afterward wife of Dr. William Halyburton; also a miniature of Mrs. George Washington, and a manuscript letter from Tobias Lear, written to his mother, giving an account of the death of Washington.

A chair which had stood in the Hall at Mount Vernon has been purchased for eight hundred dollars, paid for by two ladies of New York, \$300.00, by individual Vice Regents, \$425.00, and by the Association, \$75.00.

A medallion is presented by Mrs. Thayer, through the Vice Regent for Rhode Island, a fine engraving of the head of Washington in miniature, in circular frame of wood from Mount Vernon.

During the Council a daughter of Mrs. Forbes, who gave the snuff-colored suit worn by Washington, told us of how the suit had been stolen during the Civil War and deposited here and presented by Mr. Forbes, its rightful owner. His daughter asked that the white silk stockings belonging to the suit be hung with it. This has been done.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.

MARGARET BARRET.

ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM.

AMY TOWNSEND.

MARY YEATMAN WEBB.

## REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The Library Committee have taken all the books down and dusted them. They found them in good order.

The Committee would suggest that the catalogue of books now in the Library be completed, as it only comes down to 1897, and another copy made.

Two books were brought by Mrs. Graham, Vice Regent for Missouri: "The Inventory of the Contents of Mount Vernon in 1810," presented by Mr. W. K. Bixby, and "Mount Vernon Papers," by Edward Everett, presented by Lillian Mason Brown.

HELEN F. CONOVER, Chairman.  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.  
LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON.  
MARY F. FAILING.  
MARY YEATMAN WEBB.

#### REPORT OF THE RECORD COMMITTEE.

Your Committee reports that our efficient Chairman, the Vice Regent for Delaware, having resigned her chairmanship, she has made over the sum of \$52.40, which she held for expenses of this committee, into the hands of the present chairman. Upon consulting with the Regent and this committee it was decided to pay over this money, through our Treasurer, Mr. Riggs, to be added to the general account, as there are no further expenses attached to the work of this committee.

From Mrs. Ward, Vice Regent for Kansas, some interesting papers relating to the past action of early Councils have been received. In these records we find from a journal kept by Mrs. Eve during the Council of 1868 and minutes recorded by Mrs. Halsted of the 1870 Council many items that are new to many of our more recently appointed Vice Regents—such as notice of the poverty of this Association, which necessitated the dismissal of Mr. Herbert, the then Superintendent, and forced the Regent, Miss Cunningham, to assume the discharge of his duties for one year. There is a resolution that absence from our Council for one year should oblige the delinquent Vice Regent to resign, but this by law was soon ignored. The obtaining from the owners of "Woodlawn" of the cap stone to the entrance to the old Tomb is mentioned. A furnace was placed in the cellar of the Mansion at this date. Owing to the Civil War there seems to have been delay in obtaining the title deeds to this property, Mr. Washington having been in the army. We find an account of a visit to Dover, Delaware, made by the members of this far-away Council to Mrs. Comegys, the Vice Regent for Delaware, and one of the founders.

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON, Chairman.  
ELIZA F. LEARY.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS, TREES AND SHRUBS.

The Chairman of your Committee sends in the following recommendations:

*To the Committee on Grounds, Trees and Shrubs:*

The Chairman reports \$149.40 on deposit, given at Council of 1908 by State of Illinois for the purpose of purchasing plants, trees and

shrubs. Will the Council approve the purchase of the following holly trees and plants?

*Ilex Aquifolium*,  
*Shepherdia*,  
*Minarca*,  
*Agentea Marginata*,  
*Ancuba Japonica*,  
*Azatea Amoena*.

All these plants retain their foliage in winter.

Mr. Dodge will be glad to give the ladies a report on conferences we have had upon the subject.

MARY T. LEITER.

Mrs. Leiter, Chairman of your Committee, being unavoidably absent, the Acting Chairman offers the action of the Committee:

The request that the holly and the evergreen plants should be purchased with a portion of the \$149.40 donated shall be at once granted and the plants be placed where Mrs. Leiter selects.

Your Committee would recommend the removal of two arbor vitae from the lawn near the old Tomb, which have already injured the fine trees near there.

There is wild honeysuckle to be exterminated bordering path to Tomb which is killing the grass.

There are two big improvements to be made this year which demand your consideration:

One is to make a drain to complete the drainage of the newly reclaimed meadow land. The plan is to place pipes in what is now an open ditch and fill this in with gravel. This will catch the springs from the hills and dry a bit of land behind the meadow, which will render it of value; also, this covered drain will admit of making a new road, which will become necessary for transporting the crops raised on the new meadow. Cost, about \$100.00.

The other big work is the restoration of the Ha Ha fence—a feature of this place during Washington's life. This work and the screen wall below the kitchen needs careful preparation and judgment. A report from our resident engineer, Mr. Archer, will give the details of the work, also his plans, and some idea of the expense, and aid your decision as to the restoration. The cost of this will be \$1,200.00.

There are two young ash trees that are injuring the fine maple facing the gate to the Kitchen Garden. Has your Committee your consent to remove these trees?

Your Committee wishes to express its entire satisfaction in the admirable execution of last year's recommendations to our Superintendent. The most notable of the results of his supervision is the final re-

demption of the marsh which was the source of illness and which is now a fine piece of meadow land. For this work we would also tender our appreciation and thanks to our Resident Engineer.

SUSAN E. J. HUDSON, Acting Chairman.  
CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM.  
MARGARET BARRET.  
ANNE C. A. BROWN.  
AMY TOWNSEND.

#### REPORT OF BY-LAWS COMMITTEE.

The Committee submits for adoption the following change in Order of Business: Immediately following the Regent's Report will come consideration of nominations for Vice Regent.

Respectfully submitted,  
REBEKAH S. MANDERSON.  
ELIZA F. LEARY.  
ANNE C. A. BROWN.

#### REPORT OF GUIDE BOOK COMMITTEE.

The new edition of the Mount Vernon Guide Book will be revised and published this summer.

It is recommended that a list of the Regents and Vice Regents be given in this edition; also a condensed statement of the facts relative to the purchase of Mount Vernon and of the different States which have assisted in the purchase and preservation of the estate, to be written as a preface to the Guide Book; also, that new and better photographs be chosen to replace those declared by the Committee not satisfactory. The Committee also recommends that an account be given of all genuine Washington relics in each room or hall of the Mansion in which they belong, and that an account of the valuable restorations or State work done through the Vice Regents be recorded in the new edition.

Mr. Owen Wister has written to the Corresponding Secretary expressing his gratification that the last paragraph of his book, "Seven Ages of Washington," is to be quoted in the new edition of the Guide Book, chosen as expressing most beautifully the spirit of Mount Vernon.

Respectfully submitted,  
MARY YEATMAN WEBB, Acting Chairman.  
ALICE D. IRWIN.  
MARY F. FAILING.

#### REPORT OF FARM COMMITTEE.

The Report of the Superintendent covers fully the farming operations of the past year.

The Farm Committee recommends the following changes, after making a tour of inspection:

To give up the costly attempt to increase by cultivation the fertility of outgrowing lots amounting to nearly forty acres. To restore these lots to woodland effect by planting oaks, black walnuts and other trees. In time the black walnut trees would yield valuable revenue in lumber.

It is recommended to reduce the number of deer in the park, thus diminishing the amount of grain food required for their maintenance.

Rotation of crops will be essential for the fields in cultivation, to control the acid tendency of the soil and the wild growth.

It is recommended that the barn in the orchard lot be cleaned, disinfected and whitewashed throughout; that all barns be cleaned daily and the manurial products deposited upon the fields and lots where fertilization is most needed.

The Farm Committee suggests that if the crops of corn, fodder and hay this season warrant it, that the Superintendent be authorized to purchase a few head of young steers to utilize the surplus forage. By the next spring these cattle may be sold to considerable advantage.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY YEATMAN WEBB, Acting Chairman.

MARGARET BARRET.

FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS.

ANNE C. A. BROWN.

GEORGIA PAGE MILLER.

ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.

REBEKAH S. MANDERSON.

### **REPORT OF POST CARD COMMITTEE.**

The Post Card Committee reports large sales of post cards to visitors, who are always glad to buy these attractive souvenirs of Mount Vernon. More than 10,000 have been disposed of this year. The new cards are of excellent coloring and workmanship and reflect credit on Mr. Lect, who supplies them.

AMY TOWNSEND, Chairman.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

MARY F. FAILING.

CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM.

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STEAMBOAT CONTRACT.**

Your Committee beg leave to report that the contract for the service of the steamer "Macalester" has been renewed for five years dating from June 1, 1910.

Mr. Mertens, the president of the steamboat company, has agreed to the request of this Association that there shall be the same liberty to dissolve the contract at any time on any first day of June upon giving ninety days' notice to the other party that the former contract gave only to the steamboat company.

Mr. Mertens also said he would try to get permission from the electric railroad company for an interchange of tickets. Should this request be granted there must be an additional agreement signed by the Regent and the President of the boat company.

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON, Chairman.  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.

### REPORT OF PRESS COMMITTEE.

The Washington newspapers declined the publication of long articles descriptive of Washington relics, or relative to the historical annals of Mount Vernon. They accepted only short resumes of daily occurrences.

MARY YEATMAN WEBB.  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE.  
FRANCES JONES RICKS.  
MARGARETTA BARRET.  
ANNE C. A. BROWN.  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.

### REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee would respectfully report a faithful examination of the financial statements of the Treasurer, Superintendent and Gardener, and have compared the bills and vouchers of the past year with the Superintendent's books, finding them entirely correct and satisfactory.

Total receipts from all sources.....	\$44,765.63
Total expenditures .....	42,721.57
Balance.....	\$ 2,044.06

Letter from the Treasurer, Mr. Riggs, in acknowledgment of the silver dessert service presented by order of Council last year as an expression of gratitude for services of more than half a century:

FAREHAM, NEW LONDON, CONN., July 26, 1909.

MISS HARRIET C. COMEGYS, *Regent, M. V. L. A.*,  
No. 12 Chestnut Avenue,  
Chestnut Hills, Philadelphia, Pa.

DEAR MISS COMEGYS:

A few days ago the Express Company delivered at my door here the very splendid token of esteem and appreciation which the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association have been pleased to bestow on myself.



My services have been so easy and so agreeable that I cannot acknowledge any great debt of gratitude as due. To be connected with such a task as that of the Association, purely patriotic in the best sense, is in itself an honor, and I congratulate myself that such has been my good fortune.

It is hard to realize that it is now twenty-eight years since the good opinion of the then Regent, approved by the Vice Regents, found in me a proper successor to my father, and it is especially agreeable to find that his services are recalled in the inscription on the silver. These handsome pieces of plate, evidences of a confidence in my integrity and in that of my father before me, will be, I trust, treasured with pride by my children and by their descendants.

I pray you, dear Madam, to convey to the Vice Regents my very sincere thanks and my deep appreciation of this sumptuous gift.

Your obedient servant,

E. FRANCIS RIGGS.

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Letter from Mrs. Townsend on receipt of the special badge of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association presented to her:

57 EAST SEVENTY-EIGHTH STREET,

NEW YORK, November 22, 1909.

MY DEAR MISS COMEGYS:

I wish to thank you and through you the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association for the great pleasure I experienced today on receiving the exquisite memento of our beloved Society.

Such a grateful acknowledgment and recognition of my eighteen years of service as its head and leader has touched me more deeply than I can express.

I shall never look upon this beautiful little gem without regretfully recalling the happy memories that center around this dear home of Washington.

I look back on those days, and the friendships made there, as very precious treasures and am so touched that the mere sight of the Society's last gift to me can invoke them all and bring them back to me.

Trusting that you will convey my sincere appreciation and thanks to the ladies of the Board, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND.

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The Regent and Vice Regents invited the Governor of Virginia and his board of visitors to Mount Vernon on Tuesday, May 17th.

Governor Mann, with Mrs. Mann, arrived by special trolley car; the Board of Visitors which accompanied them was composed of the following gentlemen: Hon. Roswell Page, Beaver Dam, Va.; Mr. Fred. W. Scott, Richmond, Va.; Major R. A. McIntyre, Warrenton, Va.; Mr. A. D. Brockett, Alexandria, Va., and Mr. T. M. Dillard, Blackstone, Va.

At 1.30 o'clock P. M., luncheon was served, after which the party dispersed to inspect the house and grounds. Before leaving, the Governor and Board of Visitors came into the Council chamber, where the Regent and Vice Regents were assembled, and speeches were made by Governor Mann and Mr. Page. The Regent responded gracefully, and soon after the guests dispersed.

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The death of His Majesty King Edward VII of England occurred just before the meeting of Council. A resolution was passed at the opening session that the Association send a wreath to the funeral and a cable message of sympathy to Queen Alexandra. The wreath was made of leaves of English oak from a tree planted by King Edward when he visited this country as Prince of Wales, together with magnolia, ivy and box leaves from original plants at Mount Vernon. The wreath was four feet across and tied with a bow of wide lavender ribbon. It was sent by the steamer Baltic and delivered at the American Embassy by special messenger.

The inscription that accompanied the wreath read as follows:

"This wreath of English oak—the leaves from the tree planted by King Edward VII at the Tomb of Washington—and of ivy, box and magnolia, is sent in evidence of the honour and affection in which the late King was held by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association."

The following letter announcing the arrival of the wreath sent to the funeral of King Edward VII was received some days after adjournment of Council:

AMERICAN EMBASSY,  
LONDON.

May 23, 1910.

MADAM:

The Embassy this morning received through Mr. Leigh Thomas, of the White Star Line SS. "Baltic," a wreath which had been prepared at Mt. Vernon, which it was requested to place upon the tomb of his late Majesty King Edward VII at Windsor.

The Embassy has taken pleasure in furthering the desire of your Society and begs to inclose to you herewith the original acknowledgment from Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Charles A. Frederick, Master of the Household, in which, besides acknowledging the receipt of the wreath, he ex-

presses on behalf of Queen Alexandra the gratitude she feels for your thoughtful action. I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

FRED. MORRIS DEARING,

Second Secretary of Embassy.

THE REGENT,

Mt. VERNON ASSOCIATION,

Mt. VERNON, VIRGINIA,

U S. A.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, May 23, 1910.

SIR: I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the wreath from the Society of the Ladies of Mount Vernon, Virginia, which shall be sent to Windsor. May I ask you to be so kind as to assure the Society how touched Queen Alexandra is by their kind thought and sympathy

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES FREDERICK,

Master of the Household.

The cable message of sympathy to Queen Alexandra and the answer are as follows:

TO HER GRACIOUS MAJESTY,

THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA:

We, the Regent and Vice Regents of Mount Vernon, the Home and resting place of Washington, in Council assembled, desire to offer our heartfelt sympathy in this hour of sorrow. With the whole world we mourn His illustrious Majesty, the Great King Edward the Seventh, and with her gracious permission are sending a wreath of Oak and Ivy from the Tomb of Washington.

*Mount Vernon-on-the-Potomac, May 11, 1910.*

LONDON, May 13th, 1910.

THE REGENT OF Mt. VERNON,

Mt. Vernon, Virginia, U. S. A.:

Queen Alexandra sincerely thanks you for your kind sympathy. Her Majesty also thanks you very much for the wreath you are sending.

(Signed) KNOLLYS.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE,

May 20, 1910.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all the kind donors of the beautiful wreaths and flowers which were sent as tokens of affection in memory of our beloved King.

*The Regent,*

*Mount Vernon,*

*United States of America.*

ALEXANDRA.

The above was written and signed by Queen Alexandra.

This year—1910—marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of our valued Superintendent's official residence at Mt. Vernon. Thoroughly imbued with a veneration and love for the home and tomb of Washington, always watchful for the smallest detail important for its preservation, faithful to the letter in fulfilling the duties of his office, Mr. Dodge has proven himself to be the right man in the right place.

In recognition of his efficient services for a quarter of a century, as a testimonial of esteem and regard, Council presented Mr. Dodge with a cheque for \$1,000.

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Through the Vice Regent for Michigan the "Detroit Mt. Vernon Society" has purchased for one thousand dollars and presented to Mt. Vernon the large arm chair that belonged to the mother of Washington and is therefore the oldest relic at Mt. Vernon. The beautiful generosity of this little society, quietly working in the interest of Mt. Vernon for the Vice Regent of their State, called for special recognition and a rising vote of thanks was accorded them by act of Council.

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Dr. Thomas Nelson Page has written a charming booklet on Mt. Vernon and its preservation which is being published by the Vice Regent of Nebraska, aided by generous friends in her State. It will be on sale at Mt. Vernon for the benefit of the Association and for the enlightenment of the many who do not yet understand the origin of the Association and how Mt. Vernon is preserved as it is today. The name of the author and subject of the sketch pre-suppose a gem in literature that few will care to be without.

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A new edition of the official guide book has just been published which will be found interesting as well as attractive in appearance.

It has been enlarged to contain a brief statement of the main facts connected with the restoration of Mt. Vernon from the time it was first offered to the United States Government and declined, then to the State of Virginia and again declined and finally of the appeal of Miss Pamela Cunningham to the women of the country, which resulted in the birth of the Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

A complete list of Regents and Vice Regents from the organization of the Association will be found, also a record of valuable restorations or state work accomplished through the Vice Regents.

An account of all Washington relics and where placed will add interest to the volume, which may be obtained only at Mt. Vernon.

The collection of Washington relics has again been enriched by the generosity of Mr. Pierpont Morgan. A porcelain mug in beautiful condition, from which Washington drank milk and cider, was presented through the Vice Regent for New York.

Mt. Vernon has also received in the past year a number of valuable articles by bequest. By the wills of Miss Margaret B. Smith and Mrs. Edmonia Mason McClurg an interesting collection has been transferred by their executors, a list of which will be found in the report of the Relic Committee.

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Mrs. Julian-James came down to Mt. Vernon to present on her own behalf an antique silver and copper coffee urn that once belonged to General Washington, and on behalf of the executors of her sister, Mrs. McClurg, the articles left to Mt. Vernon in the will of Mrs. McClurg.

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The Regent and Vice Regents received an invitation to the White House from Mrs. Taft for Thursday afternoon, which was accepted by the Regent and a number of Vice Regents, all going up to Washington on a special car, accompanied by Mr. Dodge. The occasion will be remembered as a very delightful one and made an agreeable break in the routine of business.

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## STANDING COMMITTEES

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### FINANCE.

Mrs. Ball, chairman; Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Flandau, Mrs. Leary.

### MANSION.

Mrs. Flandrau, chairman; Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Ricks, Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Maxey.

### FURNITURE.

Mrs. Wilder, chairman; Mrs. Graham, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Leary.

### LIBRARY.

Miss Longfellow, chairman; Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Johnston, Miss Failing, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

### GROUND AND SHRUBS.

Mrs. Leiter, chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Maxey.

### GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE.

Mrs. Barnes, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Leiter, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

### KITCHEN GARDEN.

Mrs. Harrison, chairman; Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Andrews, Miss Failing, Mrs. Ricks.

### FARM.

Mrs. Hearst, chairman; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Ricks.

### TOMB.

Mrs. Graham, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

### **RELICS.**

Mrs. Wilder, chairman; Mrs. Hearts, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Webb, Miss Townsend.

### **RECORD.**

Mrs. Hudson, chairman; Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Barret.

### **BY-LAWS.**

Mrs. Manderson, chairman; Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Brown.

### **INDEX.**

Mrs. Ward, Chairman; Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Ricks.

### **PARLIAMENTARY RULES.**

Mrs. Manderson, chairman; Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Barret.

### **PRESS.**

Mrs. Webb, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Pringle.

### **GUIDE BOOK.**

Miss Longfellow, chairman; Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Flandrau, Miss Failing.

### **POST CARDS.**

Miss Townsend, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Miss Failing.

### **INVESTIGATION OF WASHINGTON RELICS.**

Mrs. Rathbone, chairman; Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Brown, Miss Failing.

# THE FAREWELL ADDRESS

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## OF THE FOUNDER AND FIRST REGENT OF THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION

**T**O the Council of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of June, 1875. Ladies: It was my intention, as well as my duty, to have met you at this time and conformed in person to the legal requisition accompanying a resignation so important as mine; but Providence does not permit.

But in parting, I feel it due to you, as to me; to the responsibilities I solemnly assumed, which were so important in their results; to those you have taken upon yourselves; to say a few words as to those responsibilities or duties, laid down in the beginning of our work, not to be lightly regarded, for they were pledges to future generations as well as to ours. The minds and hearts which conceived the rescue of the home of Washington; of the completion of a worthy "tribute" to public integrity and private virtue; an expression of the gratitude due and felt by a country destined to act such an important part in the drama of the world; conceived it with all the reverence felt in older regions for the resting-places of their honored dead; where only pious hands are permitted to be in "charge," so as to have them carried down to admiring ages in the same condition as when left.



Such was the pledge made to the American heart when an appeal was made to it to save the home and tomb of Washington, the father of his country, from all change, whether by law or desecration. Such, to the last owner of Mount Vernon, ere he was willing to permit it to pass from his hands. Such to the legislature of his mother's estate, ere she gave us legal rights over it. Such are we bound to keep. Our honor is concerned, as well as our intelligence and legal obligations. The mansion and the grounds around it should be religiously guarded from change—should be kept as Washington left them.

Ladies, the home of Washington is in your charge, see to it that you keep it the home of Washington. Let no irreverent hand change it; no vandal hands desecrate it with the fingers of progress! Those who go to the home in which he lived and died, wish to see in what he lived and died. Let one spot in this grand country of ours be saved from change! Upon you rests this duty.

When the Centennial comes, bringing with it its thousands from the ends of the earth, to whom the home of Washington will be the place of places in our country, let them see that, though we slay our forests, remove our dead, pull down our churches, remove from home to home, till the hearthstone seems to have no resting place in America, let them see that we do know how to care for the home of our Hero! Farewell!

Ladies, I return to your hands the office so long held—since December 2nd, 1853.

Respectfully,

June 1st, 1874.

ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM.

## THE REGENTS AND VICE REGENTS OF THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION

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Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, Regent, 1853-1873.

Resigned 1873; died May 1, 1874.

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### VICE REGENTS APPOINTED 1858.

1. Mrs. Anna Cora Ogden Ritchie, resigned 1866.....Virginia
2. Mrs. Alice H. Dickinson, resigned 1859.....North Carolina
3. Mrs. Philoclea Edgeworth Eve, died 1880.....Georgia
4. Mrs. Octavia Walton LeVert, died 1877.....Alabama
5. Mrs. Catharine A. MacWillie, died 1872.....Mississippi
6. Mrs. Margaretta S. Morse, resigned 1872.....Louisiana
7. Mrs. Mary Rutledge Fogg, died 1872.....Tennessee
8. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Walton, resigned 1858.....Missouri
9. Miss Mary Morris Hamilton, resigned 1866.....New York
10. Mrs. Louisa Ingersoll Greenough, resigned 1865.....Massachusetts
11. Mrs. Abba Isabella Little, resigned 1866.....Maine
12. Mrs. Catharine Willis Murat, died 1867.....Florida
13. Mrs. Mary Bootes Goodrich, resigned 1864.....Connecticut
14. Miss Phebe Ann Ogden, died 1867.....New Jersey
15. Mrs. Alice Key Pendleton, resigned 1863; died 1885.....Ohio
16. Mrs. Abby Wheaton Chace, died 1892.....Rhode Island
17. Mrs. Jane Maria Antwerp, died.....Iowa
18. Mrs. Margaret Ann Comegys, died 1888.....Delaware
19. Mrs. Hannah Blake Farnsworth, died 1879.....Michigan
20. Mrs. Sarah King Hale, resigned 1861.....New Hampshire
21. Mrs. Martha Mitchell, died 1902.....Wisconsin
22. Mrs. Rosa Vertner Johnson Jeffreys, died 1894.....Kentucky
- Mrs. Janet M. E. Riggs, Acting Vice Regent..District of Columbia

1859.

23. Mrs. Elizabeth Willard Barry, died 1883.....Illinois
24. Mrs. Sarah J. Sibley, died 1869.....Minnesota
25. Mrs. Mary Pepperell Jarvis Cutts, resigned 1878.....Vermont
26. Mrs. Lilly Lytle Macalester, died 1891.....Pennsylvania

- 27. Mrs. Magadelan G. Blanding, resigned 1884.....California
- 28. Mrs. Harriet B. Fitch, died 1880.....Indiana
- 29. Mrs. Sarah H. Johnson, died 1866.....Arkansas
- 30. Mrs. Letitia Harper Walker, died 1908.....North Carolina

## 1860.

- 31. Mrs. Ann Lucas Hunt, died 1878.....Missouri
- 32. Mrs. Mary Chestnut, died 1867.....South Carolina

## 1866.

- 33. Mrs. Margaret J. M. Sweet, died 1908.....Maine
- 34. Mrs. Emily L. Harper, died 1891.....Maryland
- 35. Miss Lucy H. Pickens, died August, 1899.....South Carolina
- 36. Mrs. M. E. Hickman, resigned 1874.....Nevada
- 37. Mrs. M. A. Stearns, resigned 1873.....New Hampshire
- 38. Mrs. Emily R. M. Hewson, resigned 1872.....Ohio
- 39. Miss Ella Hutchins, resigned 1872.....Texas

## 1867.

- 40. Mrs. Janet M. C. Riggs, resigned 1868.....District of Columbia
- 41. Mrs. Maria Brooks, resigned 1876.....New York
- 42. Mrs. Matilda W. Emory, resigned 1873.....District of Columbia

## 1868.

- 43. Mrs. Nancy Wade Halsted, died 1891.....New Jersey
- 44. Mrs. Nannie C. Yulee, died 1884.....Florida

## 1870.

- 45. Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson.....Connecticut
- 46. Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, died 1898.....West Virginia

## 1872.

- 47. Mrs. Betsy C. Mason, died 1873.....Virginia
- 48. Mrs. A. P. Dillon, resigned 1873; died 1898.....Iowa
- 49. Mrs. C. L. Scott, resigned 1878.....Arkansas

## 1873.

- 50. Mrs. William Balfour, resigned 1875.....Mississippi
- 51. Mrs. Mary T. Barnes.....District of Columbia
- 52. Mrs. David Urquehart, resigned 1876.....Louisiana
- 53. Mrs. M. E. Maverick, resigned 1873.....Texas

(This was the last appointment of Miss Cunningham, First Regent.)

## MRS. LILY M. BERGHMAN,

(Made Acting Regent 1873, and Regent June, 1874.)

Second Regent.

Died 1891.

## Vice Regents Appointed 1874.

54. Mrs. Emma Reed Ball.....Virginia  
 55. Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, died 1889.....Tennessee

1875.

56. Mrs. Lily L. Broadwell, died 1889.....Ohio  
 57. Mrs. John P. Jones, resigned 1876.....Nevada

1876.

58. Mrs. Jennie Meeker Ward.....Kansas  
 59. Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend.....New York

1878.

60. Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, resigned 1884.....Vermont

1879.

61. Miss Alice Longfellow.....Massachusetts  
 62. Mrs. Robert Campbell, died 1882.....Missouri

1880.

63. Mrs. Ida A. Richardson, died 1910.....Louisiana

1882.

64. Mrs. Ella S. Herbert, died 1884.....Alabama

1885.

65. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Adams Rathbone.....Michigan  
 66. Mrs. Mary T. Leiter.....Illinois  
 67. Mrs. Janet Dekay King, died 1896.....Vermont  
 68. Mrs. Elizabeth Woodward, died 1897.....Kentucky

1888.

69. Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys.....Delaware  
 70. Mrs. Fannie Gilchrist Baker, died 1901.....Florida

1889.

71. Mrs. Alice Hill, died 1908.....Colorado  
 72. Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau.....Minnesota  
 73. Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst.....California

1890.

74. Mrs. A. R. Winder, died 1906.....New Hampshire

1891.

75. Mrs. Georgia Page Wilder.....Georgia

(This was the last nomination of Mrs. Lily Macalester Laughton,  
second Regent (Madame Berghmann), who died Nov. 4, 1891.)

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MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND.

Third Regent.

(Elected temporary Regent December, 1891, and Regent June, 1892.)

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Vice Regents Appointed 1893.

76. Mrs. George R. Goldsborough, resigned 1904; died 1906...Maryland  
 77. Mrs. J. Dundas Lippincott, died 1894.....Pennsylvania  
 78. Mrs. Mary Lloyd Pendleton, resigned 1897.....Ohio  
 79. Mrs. Philip Schuyler, resigned 1894.....New York  
 80. Mrs. Christine Blair Graham.....Missouri  
 81. Mrs. Francis S. Conover.....New Jersey  
 82. Mrs. Mary Polk Yeatman Webb.....Tennessee

1894.

83. Miss Leila Herbert, died 1897.....Alabama

1895.

84. Mrs. Robert H. Clarkson, resigned 1900; died 1902.....Nebraska  
 85. Mrs. Wm. Ames, died 1904.....Rhode Island  
 86. Miss Amy Townsend.....New York

1896.

87. Mrs. Chas. Custis Harrison.....Pennsylvania  
 88. Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey.....Texas

1897.

89. Mrs. James Campbell, resigned 1902.....Ohio

1900.

90. Mrs. Robert D. Johnston.....Alabama  
 91. Mrs. C. F. Manderson.....Nebraska  
 92. Mrs. Eugene Van Rensselaer.....West Virginia

## 1901.

- 93. Mrs. J. J. Pringle.....South Carolina
- 94. Mrs. Wm. F. Barret.....Kentucky
- 95. Mrs. Chas. Denby, died Dec. 26th, 1906.....Indiana

## 1905.

- 96. Mrs. Henry W. Rogers.....Maryland

## 1907.

- 97. Mrs. Frances Jones Ricks.....Mississippi
- 98. Mrs. Lewis Irwin .....Ohio
- 99. Mrs. J. Carter Brown.....Rhode Island
- 100. Miss Mary F. Failing.....Oregon
- 101. Mrs. Eliza F. Leary.....Washington

## 1909.

- 102. Mrs. A. B. Andrews.....North Carolina

This was the last nomination of Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend, Third Regent.

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MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,

Fourth Regent.

Elected May, 1909.



*The H. of M. Library  
Complements of  
E. B. A. Kallstrom*

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association  
of the Union**

**1911**





1911

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

*Mount Vernon Ladies' Association  
of the Union*

HELD AT

MOUNT VERNON-ON-THE-POTOMAC  
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA.

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*May 11 to 20, 1911*



**OFFICERS**  
OF THE  
**MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION**  
**OF THE UNION**

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**HONORARY REGENT.**

MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND, New York.

**REGENT.**

MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, "The Green," Dover, Del.

**VICE REGENTS.**

MRS. SUSAN E. J. HUDSON, Connecticut.  
MRS. MARY T. BARNES, District of Columbia.  
MRS. CHARLES B. BALL, Virginia.  
MISS ALICE M. LONGFELLOW, Massachusetts.  
MRS. ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Michigan.  
MRS. MARY T. LEITER, Illinois.  
MRS. REBECCA B. FLANDRAU, Minnesota.  
MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST, California.  
MRS. J. J. WILDER, Georgia.  
MRS. CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM, Missouri.  
MRS. FRANCIS S. CONOVER, New Jersey.  
MRS. THOMAS SHAPARD WEBB, SR., Tennessee.  
MISS AMY TOWNSEND, New York.  
MRS. CHARLES CUSTIS HARRISON, Pennsylvania.  
MRS. THOMAS S. MAXEY, Texas.  
MRS. ROBERT D. JOHNSTON, Alabama.  
MRS. CHARLES F. MANDERSON, Nebraska.

MRS. EUGENE VAN RENSSELAER, West Virginia.

MRS. JOHN JULIUS PRINGLE, South Carolina.

MRS. WILLIAM F. BARRET, Kentucky.

MRS. HENRY W. ROGERS, Maryland.

MRS. LEWIS W. IRWIN, Ohio.

MRS. FRANCES J. RICKS, Mississippi.

MISS MARY F. FAILING, Oregon.

MRS. ELIZA F. LEARY, Washington.

MRS. J. CARTER BROWN, Rhode Island.

MRS. A. B. ANDREWS, North Carolina.

MRS. JAMES GORE KING RICHARDS, Maine.

MISS MARY EVARTS, Vermont.

MRS. ANTOINE LENTILHON FOSTER, Delaware.

#### **RECORDING SECRETARY.**

MRS. HENRY W. ROGERS, Rider P. O., Baltimore Co., Md.

#### **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.**

MRS. JOHN JULIUS PRINGLE, "Chicora Wood," Georgetown, S. C.  
R. F. D. 1.

#### **TREASURER.**

MR. ARTHUR T. BRICE, 1711 M Street, Washington, D. C.

#### **RESIDENT SUPERINTENDENT.**

MR. HARRISON H. DODGE, Mt. Vernon-on-the-Potomac, Va.

#### **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT.**

MR. JAMES YOUNG, Mt. Vernon-on-the-Potomac, Va.

#### **RESIDENT ENGINEER.**

MR. JAMES R. ARCHER, Mt. Vernon-on-the-Potomac, Va.

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

MR. LEWIS CASS LEDYARD, 2 East 87th St., New York City, N. Y.

HON. GEORGE GRAY, Wilmington, Del.

COL. WILLIAM ANDERSON, Lexington, Va.

1911

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION

OF THE UNION

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The Board of Regents of the Association met in Annual Council on Thursday, May 11, 1911. Twenty-four ladies being present.

Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys, Regent, Delaware.  
Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson, Vice Regent, Connecticut.  
Mrs. Charles B. Ball, Vice Regent, Virginia.  
Mrs. Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone, Vice Regent, Michigan.  
Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau, Vice Regent, Minnesota.  
Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst, Vice Regent, California.  
Mrs. John J. Wilder, Vice Regent, Georgia.  
Mrs. Christine Blair Graham, Vice Regent, Missouri.  
Mrs. Francis S. Conover, Vice Regent, New Jersey.  
Miss Amy Townsend, Vice Regent, New York.  
Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison, Vice Regent, Pennsylvania.  
Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey, Vice Regent, Texas.  
Mrs. Robert D. Johnston, Vice Regent, Alabama.  
Mrs. Eugene B. Van Rensselaer, Vice Regent, West Virginia.  
Mrs. John Julius Pringle, Vice Regent, South Carolina.  
Mrs. William F. Barret, Vice Regent, Kentucky.  
Mrs. Henry W. Rogers, Vice Regent, Maryland.  
Mrs. Frances J. Ricks, Vice Regent, Mississippi.  
Miss Mary F. Failing, Vice Regent, Oregon.  
Mrs. Eliza F. Leary, Vice Regent, Washington.  
Mrs. J. Carter Brown, Vice Regent, Rhode Island.  
Mrs. A. B. Andrews, Vice Regent, North Carolina.  
Mrs. James Gore King Richards, Vice Regent, Maine.  
Mrs. Victorine E. Foster, Vice Regent, Delaware.

## REGENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

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### LADIES:

In greeting you at Council this bright May morning my heart is full of thankfulness that I have nothing to report that need cause apprehension with regard to the future safety and welfare of Mount Vernon.

With deep regret I chronicle the loss through death of three members of our Association since we last met at Council. On the 4th of July Chief Justice Fuller passed away, full of honors and mourned by the Nation. In this event we lost from our advisory committee a true friend who honored us with advice in such directions as we could with propriety seek from one presiding in our highest court of justice.

On the 6th of July we were shocked to learn of the sudden death of Mr. E. Francis Riggs, our able Treasurer and steadfast friend. He had not only a personal interest in Mount Vernon, but an interest which he inherited from his father, Mr. George W. Riggs, who was our first Treasurer, and from his mother, who was our first Vice Regent for the District of Columbia. Mr. Riggs succeeded his father in 1882, and throughout the long years of careful management on the part of both father and son, our financial affairs have been kept free from complications or embarrassments of any description whatever.

The third sad event occurred on the 15th of July, when we lost one of our most highly esteemed Vice Regents, Mrs. Jennie Meeker Ward. She represented the State of Kansas in our Association for thirty years. Superior qualities of a carefully trained mind fitted her for special work assigned to her and what she accomplished was invariably important, as our reports will show. In 1889 she restored the "servants' quarters" with money furnished by the school children of Kansas. For ten years she was our efficient Secretary of Councils; at the same time she was a most helpful member of our Record Committee, especially in filing early records, which required judgment and much labor. We were together on this committee and I was always forcibly impressed by her strong common sense, quiet dignity and considerate courtesy. We have received beautiful tributes to her memory from the Kansas Society of Colonial Dames of America, of which she was a charter member, and from the Daughters of the American Revolution, which she organized in her State. We shall miss her helpful counsel and clear judgment at our Board.

Our flag was again lowered at halfmast, on this occasion as a tribute of respect to Mrs. Beverly Kennon, who died on the 27th of January, at Tudor Place, her home in Georgetown. She was a great

granddaughter of Martha Washington, and always took an intense interest in our Association, and so long as her health permitted, graciously accepted our invitations to visit us at Mount Vernon. The influence of her gentle presence here was to us a benediction.

From our Honorary Regent, Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend, I have received a dear letter in which she regrets that the journey on is rather too long for her to take just now, or she would join us here. In her absence from Council we realize a void which cannot be filled by anyone else, and we long to have her come again.

Among our acquisitions since last Council are gifts of Washington relics and Colonial chairs. An umbrella, which belonged to Washington, has been presented by Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan. Mr. Louis V. Bell has also given, through the Vice Regent for New York, a handsome pair of brass firedogs, which were presented to Washington by Lafayette, and a small piece of Mrs. Washington's wedding dress. Mrs. Archibald Hopkins has presented the gold head and steel ferrule of a cane which belonged to Washington, that the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association gave to her grandfather, Edward Everett, in 1858, in appreciation of his aid in raising the required sum for the purchase of Mount Vernon. Mrs. Riggs has given our Association ten Chippendale chairs. It was the wish of our late Treasurer that they should be at Mount Vernon. They are historically interesting as having once belonged to Daniel Webster. Information received from experts proves that the portrait of Lafayette was not painted by Gilbert Stuart, nor that of Benjamin Franklin by Houdon, as was supposed to be the case when they were presented last year. Labels making the statements have been removed.

After the death of our Treasurer, by virtue of my office questions in connection with our finances, notably with regard to re-investments, came to me for decision. A full account of all that was done in this direction, at the advice of our bankers, you will find in my financial report. One of the keys of our bank box will, of course, be in possession of our Treasurer; the other one, which is for the use of the Regent alone, will be kept here in our safe.

The rebuilding on the original lines of the Ha Ha and screen walls, whose foundations had been left undisturbed since the days of Washington, restores a feature to these grounds which, in Colonial Days was quite characteristic and necessary on a great Southern plantation, to keep from the upper lawns grazing sheep, and out of sight, from mansion and lawns, those going to and fro in the performance of their daily labors. The restoration has been made complete this year by rebuilding, in addition to that portion ordered by last Council, the screen wall between the office and the Ha Ha across the northern lawn, which was restored by New York several years ago. This additional work I authorized in consideration of the fact that the whole could be completed at much less expense and inconvenience if done at once. The



last brick was laid on the 24th of November. In directing this work our Engineer, Mr. Archer, has carefully followed the old English bond method of laying the bricks, which is in accordance with the original work of the kind at Mount Vernon. Original bricks are in the coping throughout the entire stretch of walk, and those used in the restoration brought for the purpose from an old Colonial house in Virginia, correspond with the original ones in both size and color. In due time the ivy planted will climb over them and add to their effect. In 1859, when our Association took possession of Mount Vernon, it was a source of great regret that they had no money to pay for restoring these walls. There was nothing they could do but have the debris cleared away, and allow the grass to grow over the foundations until the time should come when they could be uncovered and rebuilt. You will be glad to hear that the wife of Bishop Tucker of Virginia, a daughter of John A. Washington, stated, on seeing the walls after they were finished, that, as rebuilt they are in true accordance with her recollection of them as they stood in her childhood, when she lived here.

On Decoration Day, President Taft sent a beautiful wreath to be placed upon the Tomb. Under the auspices of the Washington Lodge of Alexandria, Virginia, Masons from all parts of the country, belonging to the George Washington National Memorial Association, were received as our guests when they came here on the 189th Anniversary of his birth to honor the memory of our Nation's greatest Mason.

We have also received as guests distinguished foreigners who have come to pay tribute to the memory of Washington. Throughout the year patriotic organizations send delegates on great anniversaries to place wreaths upon the Tomb. Our special desire is to encourage teachers to bring the school children here when possible, to see the home and play over the lawns where Washington lived, and add a chapter to their lessons in the history of the struggle for Independence, which will help in the upbuilding of their characters and in their training to be good citizens.

Our thanks are due to the E. McFadden Company for the gift of two flags, which were unfurled here on the 4th of July, a presentation in continuance of a beautiful custom established by them in 1874.

"Mount Vernon and its Preservation," written and generously presented to us by Dr. Thomas Nelson Page, has been published in booklet form since last Council, and will be reported on by the Vice Regent for Nebraska, Chairman of the Committee having the matter in charge. A carefully revised and enlarged edition of our Guide Book is also for sale here. It not only explains to visitors what is of most interest to be found in the Mansion, gardens and grounds, but it also gives information with which they may be unfamiliar, with respect to the history and personnel of the Association having Mount Vernon in charge.

I am glad to report that although our expenses have been great this year on account of restorations and repairs, our receipts have been adequate to cover them. The Mansion and all of the surrounding buildings have been repainted as you directed and some changes, adding to the comfort and convenience of our employees, have been made in their rooms. You will find, as I have always when I have made my periodical visits here, that Mount Vernon is in beautiful order. We have lost from the west lawn one of our historic trees—the old hemlock, which from year to year has had special care. In a terrific wind storm last winter it was broken off near the ground.

Our gardens and greenhouses are our pride. In snow storms during the winter our gardeners and night watchmen give special attention to our box hedges; snows are not allowed to rest upon them and break them down.

Two of our faithful servitors died last winter—Carter, the old guard at the Tomb, and Matilda, so long in service here. You will be glad to know that the sum allowed by last Council for Matilda's maintenance was quite sufficient to insure proper attention and care during her illness, and that I authorized Mr. Dodge to pay the necessary expenses in connection with her funeral.

Our Superintendent, in his report, will give you all the details of work accomplished under his direction which you have ordered. Of his faithfulness and that of his assistants and our employees to the best interests of Mount Vernon, I cannot say too much. In the absence of Mr. Dodge, when he took his vacation in August and September, our Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Young, faithfully carried out all the work planned to be accomplished at that season. I am especially grateful to Mr. Dodge on account of the valuable assistance he rendered us all, last winter, in our extraordinary work in meeting what was required in the fulfillment of our duty towards safeguarding Mount Vernon.

In the fifty-eight years of the history of our Association, three special appeals have gone forth to our countrymen to aid us in protecting Mount Vernon from all chance of desecration. In 1853, Miss Cunningham, our Founder, called upon the women of America to help her to raise \$200,000 to secure for the Nation the Home and Grave of Washington and save it from ruin. Patriotic enthusiasm was aroused in every State in the Union, and in April, 1858, John Augustine Washington transferred his title to two hundred acres of land, including the Mansion and Tomb, to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union. By 1860 Mount Vernon was paid for. A year later, just half a century ago, the Civil War broke out. Another menace threatened! Miss Cunningham then appealed to the commanding generals of the Northern and Southern armies to grant protection to the

Home and Grave of the Father of his Country. Immediate orders were issued from both sections, that no armed soldier should enter our gates. Throughout the war Mount Vernon was respected as neutral ground. When I learned, last September, for the first time that the Belvoir or White House tract, in close proximity to Mount Vernon, had been condemned by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for the purpose of establishing upon it a Government reformatory for criminals of the District, as Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, I signed a protest to the Commissioners against such a desecration of this historic neighborhood. Again and again we endeavored to induce the Commissioners to change the site themselves, but never with hope of succeeding until we learned that the District appropriation bill calling for the requisite sum for the building of the Reformatory on that particular site had been presented to the House of Representatives for consideration. In fulfillment of our duty to the Nation as trustees of this most sacred shrine, we appealed to Congress for protection, and to patriotic societies and to patriotic citizens all over the land to aid us in our endeavor to prevent the accomplishment of what we felt would bring dishonor upon our Country and imperil the safety of the Home and Grave of Washington. That invariably and immediately you responded to the calls of your Regent for assistance that changing conditions required, and to your influence in your States and with those who represent your States in Congress, and to the aid of our patriotic countrymen we owe the fact that a response to the combined appeals came from the House of Representatives on the 30th of January. This was in the form of an amendment, called the Carlin Amendment, to the District of Columbia appropriation bill. It reads:

"That no part of any appropriation in this act shall be expended for any purpose whatsoever for a reformatory or asylum or workhouse in the State of Virginia or Maryland, within a radius of ten (10) miles of Mount Vernon, except the one now located at Occoquan, Virginia."

This passed the House by an overwhelming majority. When the Bill reached the Senate, this amendment had been strengthened in the Senate District Committee and made to read:

"That no part of any appropriation contained in this act, *or of any appropriation heretofore made* shall be expended for any purpose whatsoever for a reformatory or asylum or workhouse in the State of Virginia or Maryland within a radius of ten (10) miles of Mount Vernon, except the one now at Occoquan, Virginia."

Without opposition the bill, as amended, passed the Senate on the 13th of February, and in due time received the signature of President Taft.

Through the Charter granted by Virginia to this Association in 1858, Miss Cunningham pledged the Association to guard Mount Vernon from all change and keep it forever sacred to the memory of George Washington. The Charter cites that "In default of said Association making such proper and becoming improvements, or keeping the same in proper repair, then the said estate shall be subject to improvement and repair at the pleasure of the State of Virginia, and to this end the possession of said estate shall vest in said State."

Mount Vernon, with all its hallowed memories, is dear to every patriotic American. Washington's memory was never more revered than now. It has been proved that the Association having Mount Vernon in charge has the confidence of the Nation. All the pledges have been kept that were given over half a century ago. So far as possible the place has been restored to its original appearance, as it was when our great hero lived here. Visitors who come day by day make it possible for us to maintain it and keep it in order. Our pledge "To guard it from change" is our special responsibility, and so long as we are faithful in keeping this pledge we may rely upon retaining the confidence and support of the Nation.

Your friend and Regent,

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS.

## MEMORIAL

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ELISHA FRANCIS RIGGS,  
TREASURER MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION

The sad news of the death of Elisha Francis Riggs, July 6, 1910, came through many testimonials to his high character and ability from the press, throughout the country. It was stated that "Elisha Francis Riggs, of Washington, D. C., banker of international reputation, and a leader in philanthropic activities of the National Capital, died at his beautiful summer home, at New London." It was also stated that the late George W. Riggs, his father, was the founder of the banking firm of Riggs and Company, to which business E. Francis Riggs succeeded; that Mr. Riggs was connected with large financial interests and charitable institutions; that he was possessed of business ability of high order, and that his integrity won for him the confidence and esteem of all who knew him.

Such was the testimony of his friends and of the public. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association has its own grateful tribute of appreciation and honor to offer to Mr. Riggs' memory for his unfailing devotion to its interests and for the wisdom with which he managed its affairs.

We are told in Holy Writ that "the end of the just and upright man is peace." We may well believe that the end of our just, upright and devoted friend and Treasurer, Mr. E. Francis Riggs, was peace—the peace that is the reward of strength and endurance in the conflict of life, and of victory in the end.

It would be hard to enumerate all for which the Association is indebted to Mr. Riggs. He came to us by inheritance—a rich legacy to the Association from his father and mother who, in the days of storm and stress which followed the Civil War, were our good friends. His father was our first Treasurer and his mother was the first Vice Regent for the District of Columbia and but for their generosity in advancing funds for the empty treasury of the Association, the day of restoration of Washington's old home would have been long delayed.

Like his father, and mother, the interests of Mount Vernon have ever been uppermost in the mind of Mr. Riggs. Though the center of large financial interests as a banker in Washington, he would put aside other pressing work to aid us by judicious counsel, to invest wisely

our securities; to make a circumstantial annual report at Council, and to keep the Finance Committee thoroughly informed concerning our investments. When the Regent, and the members of the Finance Committee, who were in Washington, last year, before Council, met the Treasurer at his office, at his request, he, with the utmost pains, explained all the details concerning investments and funds in his keeping, and gave them copies of all the securities. He looked ill, and the shadow of death was already upon him; but, he had no thought of sparing himself. As he conceived it, he had a duty to perform, a trust to transfer, and "Loyal au mort," he did not slight a single detail. We of the Association can never cease to be grateful to him, and to hold him in sacred memory.

May his be the glory that is the end of human endeavor, conflict and victory.

"It is enough, Earth's struggles cease,  
When the Master calls to Heaven's perfect peace."

*Elegant B.A. M.*

MRS. JENNIE MEEKER WARD,

VICE REGENT, MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION, FOR KANSAS,

Died July 15th, 1910,

At her residence, Ottawa, Kansas.

"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

To her for whom we mourn, and for whom the flag she loved so well hangs at halfmast above our lawns, this beautiful promise seemed essentially to belong, so pure in heart was she. Guileless as a child she passed through life so unstained and ignorant of its temptations and frauds that we, who best knew and loved her, were often tempted to screen her, as we would a child, from the trials and annoyances of daily life. It is rare indeed to find a character so faithful, upright and steadfast, so trustful and affectionate, so exempt from any trace of worldliness.

Her education had formed a highly cultivated mind and her intimate knowledge of classic and general literature made her a most interesting companion. Her judgment was clear and wise though her natural reserve caused an unwillingness to declare it.

While we cherish the memory of so noble a character, may we not also be grateful for our brief intercourse with one of "the pure in heart who shall see God."

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON.

## STATE REPORTS

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### ALABAMA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Alabama has little to report this year, except that many Mount Vernon talks were given.

A reception was held on the 22d of February.

The papers on Washington's home and friends were so full that some were published by request.

An old mahogany clock was secured for the Alabama room.

Individuals, the press of the State and our Representatives all rallied around us in our fight before Congress to prevent the desecration of Mount Vernon by the building of a penal institution at our very doors. All honor to our Regent and the ladies who under her leadership gained us the victory.

Respectfully submitted,

LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON,

Vice Regent.

### CALIFORNIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for California reports that she distributed a number of Mount Vernon reports.

Also, that, at the request of prominent members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, she furnished the data for a report of the work accomplished and of general conditions at Mount Vernon, which was read at the last meeting of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She further reports that she notified not only Senators and Representatives of California, who responded promptly, but also prominent and influential citizens, of the proposed establishment of a government reformatory for criminals from the District of Columbia at Belvoir. Through a friend who is managing large interests in South Dakota the same work was accomplished in that State.

It is her pleasure to donate \$250 to be expended for any existing necessity. Should the Council decide to purchase such a farm wagon as is recommended by the Superintendent, and this sum proves insufficient, she will gladly increase it to the requisite amount.

Respectfully submitted,

PHOEBE A. HEARST,

Vice Regent.

### CONNECTICUT STATE REPORT.

I have the honor to report that our Superintendent forwarded to me a letter from Mr. Johnathan Burwell Kilbourn, formerly of Connecticut, which stated that by the will of his sister, Miss S. Elizabeth Kilbourn, of Middletown, Connecticut, he was authorized to present to the Mount Vernon Association for the use of the Connecticut room a counterpane, an heirloom in his family for generations. This was so curious a piece of work that I took the liberty of accepting it without delay and now beg that Council will indorse my act.

I have provided a Brussels carpet both for the office and office dining room.

Mrs. Wm. E. Verplanck, of Mount Gulien, Fishkill, sends, through me, several plants of the York and Lancaster rose which are raised from historic roots that bloomed when Washington there founded the Order of the Society of the Cincinnati.

Many reports have been distributed in England, Europe and my own State. I have failed in procuring from Mrs. Walker's heirs any of her Mount Vernon papers that are much needed by her successor, the present Vice Regent for North Carolina.

In response to the order of our Regent I sent letters to the Connecticut members of Congresses of 1910-1911, asking for their protection against the impending danger to Mount Vernon in placing a penal institution near the Home and Tomb of Washington. These gentlemen in reply assured me of their services and their votes.

Respectfully submitted,

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON,

Vice Regent for Connecticut.

### GEORGIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Georgia responded at once to the appeal of our Regent for the preservation of Mount Vernon from the threatened establishment of a criminal reformatory near Mount Vernon, writing personal notes, with copies of the protest, also sending Mount Vernon reports to the eleven members of Congress and the two senators from Georgia, also to the Governor of Georgia, receiving cordial responses.

The Vice Regent also, as President of the Georgia Society of Colonial Dames, called meetings of that Society, who gladly signed the protest which was sent to Senator Bacon, of Georgia, at Washington.

Two old engravings have been offered for Mount Vernon, which will be decided upon by the Committee on the Investigation of Relics.

Also a piece of brocade from a gown of Mrs. Washington, which will be placed among the relics.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,

Vice Regent for Georgia.



### KENTUCKY STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Kentucky reports a gift to the Kentucky room at Mount Vernon from the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution of twenty-five dollars (\$25).

She is happy to report the hearty support given by the Kentucky delegation in Congress to our appeal to prevent the establishment of a criminal reformatory near Mount Vernon.

She also reports a loan to the Association of buttons worn by General Washington and a cross made of the wood of his first coffin, the loan being made by Mrs. Simon Bolivar Buckner, of Kentucky, and accepted by the Committee on Investigation of Relics.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGARETTA BARRET,

Vice Regent for Kentucky.

### MARYLAND STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Maryland reports the loan of a valuable Washington relic from Mrs. Kirby F. Smith, a niece of Mrs. Goldsborough, late Vice Regent for Maryland, and a lineal descendant of Mrs. Washington. It is a mahogany wine chest, holding sixteen large glass bottles, and is now an interesting feature of the family dining room. This piece of furniture is described in the inventory of Washington's effects made by his executors soon after his death.

Hon. Jas. Alfred Pearce presents a photograph of a portrait of Washington, painted by Dr. Dick.

A curious netted valance for the bed in the Nellie Custis room was presented by Mrs. Motter, of Washington, and has attracted much attention. It was made by a Maryland woman and represents much labor.

The alarming prospect of having a criminal reformatory in the vicinity of Mount Vernon called for individual as well as concerted effort on the part of the Vice Regents to prevent such a calamity. The Vice Regent for Maryland is happy to report the assistance of Senators and Representatives from her State in Congress in defeating the bill, as well as the ready response of the patriotic societies and individuals to the appeal for protest against the location of the reformatory. The happy result is due to the assistance of all and the skillful management of the Senators and Representatives of Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS,

Vice Regent for Maryland.

### MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Massachusetts deeply regrets her continued disability to be present at the annual Council meeting. She is able, however, to keep the interest of the Mount Vernon Association alive in her own State and finds always a ready response to the work of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE M. LONGFELLOW,  
Vice Regent for Massachusetts.

### MICHIGAN STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Michigan reports a contribution of \$275 from the Detroit Society. This amount was raised at the annual Mount Vernon tea, which this Society gives regularly on the 22d of February in honor of the memory of Washington and to supply the Vice Regent with funds for her work at Mount Vernon.

While in Washington in April the President of the Detroit Mount Vernon Society, Mrs. Fredora A. Stevens, visited Mount Vernon and she left an order with a Washington florist to send a wreath to be placed upon the Tomb of Washington while Council was in session. Tuesday, the 16th, is the day selected for the wreath to be sent to Mount Vernon.

It was my privilege to be able to answer the summons of the Regent to attend a special conference held in Washington on the 10th of January last, to take measures for the protection of Mount Vernon from the threatened danger of a criminal reformatory at Belvoir, the adjacent property to Mount Vernon. The campaign we entered upon was active, intensely interesting, and in the end triumphant, for our appeal to the people through the historic, patriotic, religious, philanthropic and educational institutions of the country met with a hearty response, which had great weight with the members of Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
Vice Regent for Michigan.

### MINNESOTA STATE REPORT.

In regard to the Belvoir Reformatory matter, I wrote to the Senator and to the Congressman of my district, and received a reply from both assuring me of their hearty co-operation in favor of Mount Vernon.

The Vice Regent for Minnesota reports the gift of ten dollars from the Colonial Dames in Minnesota. Also a gift of ten dollars to the Green House from a citizen of St. Paul.

It may be interesting to the Vice Regents to hear of a Colonial Ball given in St. Paul on the 22d of February last. This ball was for the purpose of buying the early home of Henry Hastings Sibley at Mendota, at the junction of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers and opposite Fort Snelling. This little settlement was placed near the fort, as in those early days the Indians had possession of the country. General Sibley was a very distinguished old settler, who did much for the progress and development of the State of Minnesota. His wife was made Vice Regent for Mount Vernon in 1859, just thirty years before my election. She died after serving two years and there was no successor until my election. Upon the occasion of the ball I wrote to Mr. Whelan asking him to send me flowers to make a bouquet for the lady impersonating Martha Washington, which he did. They arrived in good condition and were much appreciated, proving that patriotism was far from dead.

Respectfully submitted,

REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,  
Vice Regent for Minnesota.

### MISSOURI STATE REPORT.

Your Vice Regent reports a gift to the Association of a letter of Washington Irving to Miss Mary M. Hamilton, Vice Regent for New York, dated Sunnyside, February 17, 1859, in which he says:

"MY DEAR MISS HAMILTON:

"I enclose a check for five hundred dollars in payment of my subscription to the Mount Vernon Fund Association."

The letter is framed with a photograph of Washington Irving.

She also reports a copy of Jared Sparks' "Writings of Washington," published in 1837.

Copies of the protest against the establishment of a criminal reformatory at Belvoir were signed and sent to each Senator and Representative from her State.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM,  
Vice Regent for Missouri.

### MISSISSIPPI STATE REPORT.

My plan for giving prizes for an essay on the "Home of Washington," to be competed for by members of the graduating class of the schools in the ten largest towns of Mississippi, seems to have given added interest to the celebration of Washington's birthday, when the reading of the best essay and the award of the prize formed a part of the exercises.

The offer was made to ten schools, nine accepted and six of these have sent me very interesting accounts of the exercises, and copies of the essays, which seem to have much merit. Much interest seems to have been aroused in this place and in our work here in preserving it.

The offer will be renewed to the schools which made use of it last year.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES JONES RICKS,

Vice Regent for Mississippi.

### NEW JERSEY STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for New Jersey has distributed the Mount Vernon reports to the Historical Society and others throughout her State. She also ordered a number of copies of Dr. Page's book for some of her friends, which were read with great interest.

Ten dollars has been given by the Boudinot Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and three dollars by other friends. Twenty-five dollars was given towards the purchase of relics.

When the question of the criminal reformatory at Belvoir came before Congress the Vice Regent signed the protest and sent copies of it to the Senators and Congressmen of New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN F. CONOVER,

Vice Regent for New Jersey.

### NEW YORK STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for New York reports the gift from Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan of an umbrella that belonged to General Washington. It is forty inches long, and the whalebone ribs are thirty-three inches long. On one side of the handle is carved George Washington's bust, and the name, George Washington, First President of the United States. On the other side of the handle is a spread eagle. There is a metal or silver piece on the end, with stars around the edge. The umbrella is a blue silk, with white border. On the end is a brass metal knob.

Mr. Louis Bell's gift is a pair of firedogs given by Mr. George L. Schuyler to his mother, Mrs. Isaac Bell. They were given to George Washington by Lafayette. Alexander Hamilton admired them and Washington gave them to him. Hamilton married Miss Schuyler, and the firedogs fell, by inheritance, to Mr. Bell.

Mr. Bell also gives a piece of Mrs. Washington's dress.

A pewter jug—an old German one of about the time of General Washington—has been given to me to be placed in the kitchen.

I want to place on record the kindness and prompt response to the appeal made to Senators Root and Depew to assist in keeping from desecration the grave and home of Washington; also Mr. Fish and many other members of Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

AMY TOWNSEND,  
Vice Regent for New York.

### NORTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.

The Mount Vernon literature distributed was pleasantly acknowledged by the libraries and individuals to whom it was sent during the past year.

In the children's reading room of the Olivia Raney Memorial Library in Raleigh has been placed a sepia copy of the Stuart portrait of General Washington, which was received with appreciation. Also much gratitude was expressed when a large picture of Mount Vernon adorned the children's reading room in Greensboro.

Our honored Regent and Committee last winter, by letter, told of the proposed location of a penal institution near our beloved Mount Vernon. At their suggestion copies of the circular letter were promptly sent to our Senators and Representatives in Congress. Also copies of a protest on the same subject, at the suggestion of the Regent and the Committee, were sent to prominent individuals. Acknowledgements received expressed disapprobation of locating such an institution in our vicinity and assurances on their part of aid in preventing it. All honor to our noble Regent and Committee for the successful accomplishment of national legislation forbidding ever within ten miles of revered Mount Vernon the location of such an institution.

A more suitable bureau and washstand have been secured for the North Carolina room. General J. S. Carr, the liberal donor of those so long there, authorizes that I do with them as I deem best.

The temporary rag rug of last year has been replaced by a hand made carpet—a North Carolina beauty, from Asheville. The yarn was spun, dyed and woven by the one woman, who wove it on a loom said to be a hundred years old.

The rose blankets for the bed were especially made for and presented to the room by the Chatham Manufacturing Company, Elkin, North Carolina, and the pattern on them was worked by Miss Whitaker, of Wake County.

Respectfully submitted,

JULIA M. ANDREWS,  
Vice Regent for North Carolina.

### OHIO STATE REPORT.

Your Vice Regent for Ohio reports the distribution of reports to libraries and colleges throughout the State, and, through the kindness of Mr. Dodge, has had the keys on the harpsichord in the Music Room renovated.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE D. IRWIN,  
Vice Regent for Ohio.

### OREGON STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Oregon has little to report beyond the customary distribution of reports and postal cards. The former go to school and college libraries throughout the State, and the latter, through the library association of Portland, Oregon, reach the children of the public and private schools. Increased interest in and knowledge of the patriotic work carried on at Mount Vernon is plainly shown.

In response to the request of our Regent protests against the establishment of a penal reformatory at Belvoir were sent to Oregon's Senators and Representatives, to which courteous replies were received. Personal notes written to private citizens met with instant and willing response. A petition signed by many was sent to Washington in addition to individual pleas. Very satisfactory answers to these appeals were afterward sent to me.

I am glad to present a high chair given by Martha Washington to Nellie Custis and George Washington Parke Custis, and used by them at Mount Vernon. It is very worn and battered but deemed well authenticated by the Committee on Investigation of Relics.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY F. FAILING,  
Vice Regent for Oregon.

### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Pennsylvania has only to report the distribution of the reports of the Association, as well as a large number of copies of the Memorial of Miss Cunningham.

In February, when the country was aroused over a penal reformatory being built at Belvoir, near Mount Vernon, the Attorney General of Pennsylvania petitioned the Legislature assembled at Harrisburg to our aid, and over 250 names of distinguished statesmen and politicians were signed to the petition.

Respectfully submitted,

ELLEN W. HARRISON,  
Vice Regent for Pennsylvania.

### **RHODE ISLAND STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Rhode Island reports giving 55 young oaks from Mount Vernon to plant in school yards in Providence. These trees excited much interest and were, in many cases, set out with appropriate ceremonies.

Much interest was shown in Rhode Island in the efforts made by this Association to prevent the establishment of a criminal reformatory at Belvoir.

Lavender iris was sent to be planted in the flower garden in accordance with the desire of the Regent.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNE C. A. BROWN,  
Vice Regent for Rhode Island.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for South Carolina has little individual to her State to report. There is, however, much of interest which she would like to relate.

Early in January the Vice Regent received a telegram from the Regent, a telegram requesting her presence in Washington the next day, if possible. At the moment it seemed utterly impossible, but at the end of two hours the Vice Regent was driving rapidly to take the train, fourteen miles away. The terrible danger which threatened the sanctity of our trust at Mount Vernon made her feel that nothing could be so important as to lend what aid she could in the fight against the unexpected danger looming up. Meeting the Regent and some of the Vice Regents in Washington, the next ten days were very full of work, which it would be too long to give in detail. Great courtesy and encouragement were shown by the South Carolina Senators and Congressmen; also from some of the Virginia Senators and Congressmen, and many from other states. The Vice Regent would like specially to mention a letter in answer to one from her, from Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, so full of enthusiastic indorsement and support of the Association. The wonderful result of the contest and the judicious and skillful conduct of the matter by our Regent are things that fill our hearts with thankfulness and pride.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,  
Vice Regent for South Carolina.

### TEXAS STATE REPORT.

Copies of the protest against establishing a penal outdoor reformatory on the Belvoir property were signed and sent to the Texas members of Congress and to patriotic societies. They manifested the deepest interest in defeating this scheme to desecrate the Home and Tomb of Washington.

The reports were distributed to the public libraries and patriotic societies.

Three visitors, Judge McLeary, Lieut. McLeary, and Captain Abernathy, left with Mr. Dodge contributions to be used to continue building the wall at the North Lodge Gate, which it is hoped can be finished in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
Vice Regent for Texas.

### VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Virginia notified the patriotic societies of Virginia of the proposed establishment of a convict settlement at Belvoir by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, the Society of Colonial Dames of Virginia, the Society of the Cincinnati, and the Virginia Historical Society adopted strong resolutions protesting against such an invasion of the precincts of Mount Vernon. The printed protest of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities was placed upon every desk in both houses of Congress.

The Vice Regent wrote to Senators and Congressmen, calling attention to the protest of our Association.

She has prepared historical data concerning the mother of Washington and will soon publish.

Respectfully submitted,

EMMA R. BALL,  
Vice Regent for Virginia.

### WASHINGTON STATE REPORT

The Vice Regent for Washington reports having given talks on Mt. Vernon to five chapters of the Daughters of the Revolution in California last year, going from Colorado to Los Angeles especially to tell of the work of the Association, also to Long Beach and Riverside. When the matter of locating the Criminal Reformatory at Belvoir came up the Vice Regent appealed to Representatives of her State in Congress to use their influence against it, and was assured of their support.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZA F. LEARY,  
Vice Regent for Washington.



## WEST VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for West Virginia submits the following report:

As unavoidable circumstances over which she had little or no control prevented her attendance on the last Council, she desires to make the report of two years in one, and to state that last year, according to the recommendation of the House Committee she renewed the curtains of the bed in the West Virginia room—the room which General and Mrs. Washington occupied as their bedroom before they made the addition to the Mansion.

The report for this year has to do chiefly with the happenings in relation to Mount Vernon during this past winter—in the winter of 1910-11, when there developed on the part of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia a plan to place upon a site in close proximity to Mount Vernon a large criminal reformatory.

Since the first heroic struggle by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association on behalf of the women of the Union to save the Home and Tomb of Washington from time, there has been no period of its history so fraught with danger and calling so peremptorily for effort to avert calamity as arose from this situation.

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia had been authorized by Congress to select a site for a penal institution and under that authority they selected the promontory next below Mount Vernon, known as the Belvoir tract. When this fact became known to the Regent of Mount Vernon she made an earnest protest on behalf of the Association. This protest was unheeded. She then summoned to her aid those Vice Regents of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association who were within easy reach and could come quickly that through every avenue of influence they could exert pressure should be brought to bear upon their State delegations in Congress. This was effectively done by appeals direct to all patriotic societies, all fraternities, universities, colleges, etc., with the result that many members of Congress, through strong protests from these various organizations were stimulated to oppose this desecration of Mount Vernon.

The protest of the West Virginia Society of Colonial Dames was most potent with its delegation in Congress, and the booklet of Dr. Thomas Nelson Page, entitled "The History and Preservation of Mount Vernon," a copy of which was presented in the name of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and, by direction of the Regent, laid upon the desk of every member of Congress, was most helpful towards the happy result, we feel convinced.

Where there are so many who ought to be especially commended for their active participation in the protection of Mount Vernon, it is difficult to specialize in a paper so brief as this must necessarily be,

and as this is merely a West Virginia State report, I shall speak only of the members of Congress from that State who each and all gave their enthusiastic support to the cause of Mount Vernon, and also of the Hon. Charles C. Carlin, member of the House from the Eighth Congressional District of Virginia, in which Mount Vernon is situated, and who took charge of the bill in the House, to whose able advocacy and thorough parliamentary knowledge, our success was mainly due. To him I wish especially the highest meed of praise, coupled along with the name of the Hon. Joseph Holt Gaines, member of the House from the Third Congressional District of West Virginia, whose alertness and dexterity defeated an effort on the part of a member of the District of Columbia Committee of the House to reduce the circle of protection to Mount Vernon to a twenty-five mile area instead of the radius of ten miles, as set forth in the bill of Mr. Carlin.

To the other members of the West Virginia delegation I can only make general reference, except in the one pathetic case to the memory of the Hon. Stephen B. Elkins, Senator for many years from West Virginia, who, lying upon the bed of his last illness, when the letter of the writer of this report was handed him, gave to his secretary directions to enter in his name a vigorous protest whenever the matter should come up in the Senate.

Nor does she wish to close this report without adding on behalf of the writer the assurance of special gratification of being able to work and thus to contribute even in the smallest measure to the strengthening of the wise and loving care of this National Shrine by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, to which body she has the honor to belong as Vice Regent for West Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,

SARAH PENDLETON VAN RENSSELAER,

Vice Regent for West Virginia.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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MOUNT VERNON-ON-THE-POTOMAC,  
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA,

April 30, 1911.

*To the Regent and Vice Regents*

*of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.*

LADIES: My report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1911, will appear to you as a reiteration of what the Regent has already so comprehensively presented to you in her annual address, yet it seems essential that I should enter more into the detail of current events, in order that you may understand how our broken time was utilized.

### NECROLOGY.

As a necessarily sad preamble I must mention in chronological order the deaths that have occurred since your last meeting.

July 4—Chief Justice Fuller, a member of the Advisory Board.

July 6—Our esteemed Treasurer, Mr. Riggs.

January 26—Thomas Braxton, Guard at the Tomb.

March 1.—Matilda Taylor, a pensioned servant.

We did not learn of Mrs. Ward's decease until some time in August. Nevertheless, the flag was then promptly lowered as a mark of respectful memory, just as had been done in honor to Chief Justice Fuller and Mr. Riggs.

### VISITORS TO MOUNT VERNON.

Our records show a total of 118,143 pay visitors during the fiscal year.

Special parties bearing floral tributes for deposit at the Tomb are worthy of mention.

May 13, 1910—Three Polish Societies.

May 26, 1910—The Governor of Louisiana, and Panama Exposition Delegation.

May 26, 1910—Masonic Concordia Lodge, of Baltimore.

May 30, 1910—Messenger from President Taft.

June 10, 1910—Prince and Princess Foushimi, of Japan.

June 28, 1910—Philadelphia Turnbezirk—an athletic society.

September 6, 1910—The Arion Lieder Tafel Society, of New York.

September 29, 1910—His Imperial Highness Prince Tsao Suun, of China.

October 6, 1910—The Arion Society, of Washington, D. C.

October 12, 1910—The John Hay Republican Association, of Allentown, Pa.

December 8, 1910—The National Organization of German Veterans and Warriors of North America.

December 14, 1910—Delegates from Masonic Lodges of Fredericksburg and Alexandria.

January 25, 1911—Senor Casasus, Special Ambassador from Mexico.

February 22, 1911—The Washington Birthday Association, of Alexandria.

February 22, 1911—The Washington Masonic Memorial Association.

April 19, 1911—Children of the American Revolution.

### INSTRUCTIONS.

The list of instructions handed me at the closing session of last Council was a helpful guide in the year's work.

Under appropriate heads, which follow, you will find each item of the list duly noted. Practically everything was accomplished as planned, and much too in addition.

### GUIDE BOOKS.

Immediately after the adjournment of Council I undertook, at the request of the Guide Book Committee, a complete research of all the printed records of the Association for data to be used in the new compilation.

Every report, from 1854, was carefully read and on the following Monday I laid before the committee, at a meeting in Baltimore, the result of my efforts. A plan of condensation and illustration was then agreed upon and left with me to put in finished shape.

This responsible task being finally accomplished, and the subject matter submitted to the committee and the Regent for approval, bids were invited for the publication. Propositions were received from two parties, that of Mr. Leet being decided by the committee and the Regent as most acceptable.

### RELICS.

The articles bequeathed by the late Miss Margaret B. Smith did not reach Mount Vernon until the last of May. As specified in the bequest they were placed in Mrs. Washington's room, excepting two items, the miniature of Mrs. Washington (which for greater safety and that it might be where visitors can see it I put in the Conrad relic case), and the Tobias Lear letter. This particularly interesting document was in such fragile condition it would scarcely bear handling. With

the consent of  
part of the Legislature  
with invisible  
in an admirer

Of the Memorial  
labeled and hand  
glazed and given  
the latter in  
"coat of arms"

The exceeded  
by Mrs. General  
with edges and

Two Washington  
which had been  
to buy, were

The Kansas  
Kansas State

By resolution  
be removed from in front of the Tomb, was presented to Pohick Church  
for use there.

## PRESENTATIONS.

I will mention briefly the receipt of certain interesting articles, particulars of which will appear in the State reports:

Through the Vice Regent for New York—

A "Washington" umbrella, a pewter tankard, Washington "fire dogs," piece of Mrs. Washington's wedding gown.

From the Vice Regent for Missouri—

Eleven volumes—Jared Sparks' "Writings of Washington." Washington Irving's letters.

From the Vice Regent for Nebraska—

One thousand copies of Dr. Page's "Mount Vernon."

Two volumes, Washington's letters.

One volume, Washington's letters (unbound).

One volume, Paine to Washington (unbound).

One volume, "Legends of the American Revolution, 1776."

From the Vice Regent for Pennsylvania—

Copies of Frank Leslie's magazine, referring to Washington and Mount Vernon.

From the Vice Regent for California—

Christmas remembrances for the employees.

From Mrs. E. Francis Riggs—

Ten Daniel Webster mahogany chairs.

From Mrs. Anna M. Kunkely—

Map of the battle of Yorktown.

From Judge Pearce, of Annapolis—

Photograph copy of Dr. Dick's portrait of Washington.

From E. McFadden & Company—

Annual gift of flags.

From Washington Secular League—

Framed copy of Paine's letter which accompanied Key to the Bastile.

From Commodore Davenport, U. S. N.—

Framed copy of a dinner invitation issued by Washington, February 23, 1799.

### WALLS RESTORED.

The restoration of the ancient screen walls, and the Ha Ha wall across the lawn to the Summer House, was an important accomplishment.

In estimating for the work our calculations of cost were based upon the bricks to be obtained from the ruins of an old Colonial mansion in King George County, Virginia, the owner of which agreed to furnish them (taken down, cleaned and delivered at nearest shipping point) at \$8.00 per thousand.

This agreement he later refused to comply with, and in order to obtain this essential material we were obliged to buy the building as it stood (for \$200.00) and employ men, under Mr. Archer's supervision, to tear it down, clean the bricks and haul them to the Potomac river. Thirty-five thousand bricks were thus obtained and shipped to Mount Vernon, but instead of costing, delivered here, \$10.00, as originally figured on, it amounted to over \$12.00 per thousand. Notwithstanding this we managed to keep within the limits of the appropriation.

There being bricks enough left over the Regent authorized the restoration of the old screen wall extending from back of the office to the Spinning House gate, thus completing these interesting features as they appeared in the days of Washington.

In the reconstruction of these walls we were able to trace and follow accurately the former lines, and the original foundation bricks thus discovered were used for coping the new walls.

Substantial foundations of Portland cement concrete replaced the original bricks.

The lawn adjoining the "Ha Ha" wall had to be graded to original contour lines and a new turf formed.

## PAINTING MANSION AND BUILDINGS.

Another item of importance was the repainting of the exterior of the Mansion and eight adjoining buildings, which has to be attended to every sixth or seventh year. Preparatory for this two of our men worked several days removing blistered paint on the river front of the Mansion.

Expert painters from Alexandria were then employed, under contract, and applied two coats of paint on all these buildings.

The material was obtained from the American Paint Works, of New Orleans, a firm which has supplied us with the excellent white paint we have used here for many years. There being enough paint left, of the two barrels ordered, our men later painted the summer house, milk house, well house near kitchen, ice house and several gates. The signs of all the buildings were also repainted and lettered anew.

At odd times the employees painted the north roof of the office, the lodges at the west gate, rafters of the wharf pavilion, door sills and steps, metal roofs of the cow barn and wagon shed, floors of outbuildings, etc.

They freshened interior paintwork, calcimined rooms, stained floors, and did the usual whitewashing of fences and stables.

## PORCHES OF COTTAGES.

Your consideration for the comfort of the employees added front porches to the four cottages constructed for them two years ago. In repainting these buildings a grey tint was selected as preferable to the more conspicuous white. Another feature of attractiveness to their surroundings was the setting out of a row of arbor vitae transplanted from the garden.

## MANSION REPAIRS.

In the Mansion some repairing was necessary. The outside window sills of the Parlor and Family Dining Room were decayed and had to be renewed. Originally made of walnut that wood was selected to replace them.

We were obliged to lay a new floor in the passageway by Washington's room, at which point the wear has been greater than anywhere else in the house. The rubber covering of stairs and passageways, and metal nosing of steps have to be renewed frequently, thus saving the old woodwork.

Sash and sills of the attic windows were painted and a few faulty places in shingle and tin roofing corrected. In the cellar the wedging under the floor joists and supports was carefully examined and tightened where at all loosened by shrinkage.

The brass knobs on the west door of the Banquet Hall were replaced by drop handles identical with those on the east door. These were given for this purpose by the Regent.

By request of the Vice Regent for Ohio the Nellie Custis harpsichord has been greatly improved. We were fortunate in getting some old ivory of exact shade, matching the original, and thus the broken and missing keys were renewed.

### **SPINNING HOUSE.**

A large upper room of the Spinning House was improved by a removal of the sheathing, strengthening the roof timbers, lathing and plastering the walls and ceiling. Framed partitions converted this room into two small dormitories which, by authorization of the Regent, were suitably furnished.

### **GARDENER'S HOUSE.**

The interior of the Gardener's house (ground floor) was rearranged by changing the front part into a watchroom, post office and telephone station, and the room in the rear for the guards to change their uniforms.

The walls were calcimined and woodwork painted.

### **LAUNDRY.**

So needful was a betterment of conditions in this building the Regent directed me to have it renovated. The old plaster, wainscoting and floor were replaced by new material, the brick hearth relaid, and outside steps rebuilt.

### **HOSE ROOM.**

The frame construction which stood between the Gardener's house and Carpenter Shop (erected there by my predecessor and used for a kennel) has been removed. The material we utilized elsewhere for a hose room, woodshed, etc.

To screen this vacant space a privet hedge was transplanted from back of the lavatory.

### **KITCHEN.**

As authorized by Council heavy ship linoleum was used to cover the hard cement floor of the kitchen.

### **WHARF.**

While the boat was laid off for repairs (January 1 to February 13) some of the protecting irons on the fender piles were strengthened and the paving blocks levelled up. Defects in the eave gutters were corrected.



## COACH.

At the same time our passenger coach was sent to Alexandria and repainted. New coach harness was found essential.

## HEATING APPARATUS.

A defective section of one of the boilers was replaced, all valves, etc., overhauled, and rust resisting paint applied to flues and exposed iron-work.

Each summer we remove the grate bars and apply a rust preventive to all the bearings. The radiators in the East Quarters were temporarily removed to repair wall plastering back of them.

## MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS.

Slate roof of the Summer House, the north slope of office roof, and storm broken glass of greenhouse repaired. Floor of basement kitchen in housekeeper's cottage resurfaced with cement. Rooms over Family Kitchen, the Butler's House, and housekeeper's cottage disinfected. Floors in Butler's House painted and walls calcimined. Wooden steps of Summer House, corn crib, and Spinning House cellar renewed. New eave gutters supplied on several buildings and others patched. Wire fence of deer park strengthened, and extended to replace some sections of wood stockade.

Minor repairs to gates and fences. Fly screens for doors and windows put in order. Relic cases in Mansion dust proofed. Two parlor chairs covered with yellow satin damask. For the desk chair in Washington's library and the wing chair in his bedroom appropriately old leather was found to cover them.

## GARDENS AND GROUNDS.

Staging in the propagating houses were emptied, repaired, white-washed, refilled with enriched soil and new stock planted. Defective ventilators required readjustment. Rooted ivy plants were set out along the garden walls, as directed, and along the restored screen walls. We were watchful to see that the famous old box hedges were, during snow storms, relieved of their endangering burden. Roots of the York and Lancaster rose were received from Mrs. Verplanck, of New York.

In the Kitchen Garden the clay soil was lightened by applying sand (to the depth of three inches) also much well rotted manure.

Fig bushes were flattened and covered heavily with leaves for protection against frost. Several hundred plants of the Mammoth Corsican, Mascot, Missionary, Tennessee and other varieties of strawberries are in thrifty condition. Fruit trees, grapevines and lilacs had customary pruning. As directed we planted rosemary and iris in the borders of the kitchen garden.

English hollies, azalea amoena, aucuba japonica, mahonia aquifolia, were grouped along the restored walls and as additions to the shrubbery screens.

Wild barberry bushes were massed as barriers flanking the "short cut" walk leading to the wharf. This is to stop the wearing of separate paths on the steep hillside. Widely increasing areas of honeysuckle between road and the Tomb had to be removed. In its stead, after grading the slopes, we have now an excellent result from seeding to grass.

With sods of this honeysuckle we covered bare spaces on the hills needing such protection. Unusual weed growth, due to frequent rains last June, gave us much to contend with. The use of "herbicide" was a great help in keeping the roads, walks and gutters clear. So rapid was the growth of grass here the mowers seemed to be continually in action.

With autumn came the downpour of leaves and until late in the winter they were being blown upon the lawns from the nearby woods with every westerly wind. These leaves we packed for compost. The lawns were rolled and mowed as soon as conditions admitted, but the backward season has delayed the development of the deeper rooted grasses.

After consultation with experts of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, an application of a special fertilizer was made to stimulate the old turf, but the benefit is not yet apparent. I have been urged to plow these lawns and grow for two seasons some shading crop (such as crimson clover) in order to kill out the objectionable roots, but this seems to be so desperate an expedient I am loath to advise its adoption. The first warm days of summer will revive the dormant roots and all the blemishes will quickly be lost sight of.

We have lost three interesting trees during the year—a large oak at the head of the lawn was killed by lightning and had to be removed, the Judas (or "Redbud") which grew near the east end of the Mansion, was prostrated by a severe gale, and the ancient hemlock, at the west end of the bowling green, was similarly wrecked. This hemlock was the one reported at last Council as in danger of falling, and which I endeavored to save by stretching an iron cable from its top to another tree. I have placed in its stead a small hemlock I brought from the Allegheny Mountains many years ago.

The double row of young maples back of the Quarters were topped to give more symmetrical shape. The weeping willows along the river front were trimmed for the same purpose. Dead branches were cut from many old trees. We removed several trees from the place which seriously interfered with the development of others more desirable.

On request of the Vice Regent for Rhode Island I shipped her, last November, 55 seedling oaks from our woods, for planting by the public schools of Providence. Twenty-four young cedars, to be set out near the new cathedral, St. John the Divine, were sent in March, by request of the Vice Regent for New York.

The Vice Regent for Michigan had me send to a friend in her State an elm. All these shipments were accompanied by certificates of inspection by the State Entomologist, as required by law.

### FARM.

The farming operations for the year, while not very extensive, had full attention. As the result of frequent rains in the early summer vegetation was of unusually rank growth, and our hay crop was correspondingly good.

From 13 acres we cured over twenty-five tons. Seventeen acres of corn started well, but failed somewhat during the drought, yielding but 80 barrels.

The eight acre hillside fronting the river produced nearly 200 bushels of oats.

Fourteen acres in crimson clover were plowed under for enrichment and drilled with whippoorwill peas. This made excellent hay, greatly relished by the horses, mules and deer. In March we drilled oats in this lot.

Four acres near the North Lodge Gate were plowed for corn.

On the reclaimed swamp (called by Washington "Hell Hole") we last year made the first attempt to grow a crop. As an experiment we sowed Kaffir corn broadcast and harrowed it in. While it germinated promptly there was no appreciable growth until the very hot weather of August when its rapid development was truly remarkable. Leaving it stand as long as possible to ripen the heavy seed heads, an unusually early frost ruined the fodder, but the grain was saved and fed to the stock and poultry.

Preparatory for converting this area into a permanent grass meadow it must be cultivated this season in field corn, in order, by frequent workings, to discourage the yellow willows which invariably sprout from this alluvial soil. The application of lime was deemed necessary to eliminate acidity and stimulate plant life.

In the former open ditch bordering the north side of this meadow we have laid a six-inch terra cotta drain pipe, providing intakes for all the adjoining springs.

At present we have 13 acres of mixed grasses for hay; 5 acres in timothy; 14 acres in oats; a pasture lot of 4 acres (very poor), and 11 acres in preparation for corn.



The carriage road between the Tomb and wharf needs resurfacing. There are projects for this work I should like to discuss with the Committee.

Improvement in the staging and paving in the Palm House is imperative.

A portion of the original curved wall next the Butler's House is in precarious condition and should be rebuilt.

The Spinning Room is such an attraction for visitors, and the narrow door affording the only point of view, the sodded space in front is quickly worn bare by those waiting to look in. The pavement there ought to be extended and that leading to the fore court should be relaid.

The storage shed west of the barn greatly needs a new roof and extension.

Shortly after last Council, when passing through Philadelphia, I had an interview with a member of the Board of Directors of the Electric Railway which plies between Washington and Mount Vernon. I explained to him fully the objectionable features attending the landing of visitors at our entrance gate and he promised to lay the subject before the Directors at their next meeting and to do his utmost to bring about reforms which would be agreeable to your Association and the public. I very much regret to report that conditions, instead of improving, have grown worse and certain features are now disgraceful and intolerable.

Thanking you ladies for your patient attention to my prosaic narrative and for your kind consideration of my earnest endeavors to serve you faithfully, I am, with great respect,

HARRISON H. DODGE,  
Resident Secretary and Superintendent.

## CONDENSED STATEMENT

### FINANCIAL REPORT

For the fiscal year ending April 30, 1911, the Superintendent's report gives:

Revenue from wharf entrances, 569 @ 25 cents.....	\$ 142.25
Visitors by railway, 64,668 @ 25 cents.....	16,167.00
Visitors by boat, 52,905 @ 25 cents.....	13,226.25
Wharf privileges.....	99.96
	<hr/>
	\$29,635.46
Revenue from other sources.....	8,238.39
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$37,873.85
Total Expenditures.....	34,045.23
	<hr/>
Balance .....	\$3,828.62

## GARDENER'S REPORT

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LADIES: In submitting my report for fiscal year, I am glad to be able to show a slight increase in receipts (\$60.30) over last year.

Total receipts .....	\$699.75
Expenditures, for postage, etc.....	11.90
	\$687.85

Plants did fairly well under glass during the winter, and outdoor shrubbery did not suffer.

By vigilance the boxwood hedge also came through without serious injury.

To Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Brown I am indebted for iris bulbs for the garden; also to Mrs. Hudson for several (5) plants of York and Lancaster rose, the growth of which I shall watch with much interest.

Our borders of primroses and violets were universally admired during their blooming season.

As the spring is very late I fear the peonies and irises will not be in flower during Council. I regret this very much as our garden full of bloom always appeals to me as being nature's method of joining in welcoming you to Mount Vernon.

Ivies have been planted and borders made of same plants, which will look more attractive than the grass borders. Primrose borders have also been made around the two boxwood trees. Another year I hope to do away with the balance of the grass borders which cannot be made to look well for any length of time.

I sincerely hope, dear ladies, that the garden may be found in satisfactory condition, thus meriting your approval.

Yours faithfully,

F. A. WHELAN,  
Head Gardener.

Mount Vernon, Va., May 12, 1911.

### REPORT OF SECRETARY OF COUNCILS.

Office Expenses:

Typewriting minutes .....	\$25.00
Packages to Vice Regents.....	8.47
Postage on single copies.....	.50
Postage on announcements.....	1.80
Envelopes .....	.50
Express on box of reports to Mount Vernon.....	.30
	\$36.57

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS,  
Secretary to Councils.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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### REPORT OF TOMB COMMITTEE.

The Committee visited both tombs and find them in good condition. They suggest that wire netting be continued inside of iron railing at the old tomb.

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM, Chairman.  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,  
EMMA R. BALL,  
REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,  
FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS,  
SARAH PENDLETON VAN RENSSELAER.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GARDEN AND GREEN- HOUSES.

The Garden and Greenhouse Committee find everything in good order in this department. There are few additional directions to be given.

It was agreed to have the old-fashioned plant, the oleander re-introduced in the garden, and two members of the Committee have volunteered to supply the plants.

While Mount Vernon cannot compete with florists who raise roses and other flowers by the acre, who have every modern appliance for the culture of each plant, and who charge high prices for their flowers, still, we have succeeded in making the gardens one of the most attractive features at Mount Vernon, and the care bestowed in the preservation of the box hedges by the Head Gardener, which are a special feature of this old colonial garden, is admirable. In the winter, during heavy snow storms, the garden force is kept busy day and night brushing the accumulations of snow from the hedges so as to avoid breaking the box wood.

Respectfully submitted,  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Chairman,  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,  
AMY TOWNSEND,  
FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
ANNE C. A. BROWN,  
SARAH PENDLETON VAN RENSSELAER.

### REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The Library Committee has examined all the books in the library and find them in remarkably good condition, quite free from mould and dust. The following volumes have been presented:

The Legends of the American Revolution, 1776, by George Lippard.

Letters from His Excellency, George Washington, to Arthur Young, Esq., F. R. S., and to Sir John Sinclair Bart, Alexandria, 1803.

Letters to George Washington, President of the United States of America, on affairs public and private, by Thomas Paine, Philadelphia, 1796.

Official letters to the Honorable American Congress, by His Excellency, George Washington, in 2 volumes, Boston, 2d edition, 1796.

The foregoing were presented by Mrs. Manderson, Vice Regent for Nebraska.

The Writings of Washington, by Jared Sparks, Boston, 1837. Presented by Mrs. Christine Blair Graham, Vice Regent for Missouri.

Respectfully submitted,  
HELEN F. CONOVER, Acting Chairman,  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
PHOEBE A. HEARST,  
LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON,  
SARAH P. VAN RENSSELAER,  
MARY F. FAILING.

### REPORT OF GUIDE BOOK COMMITTEE.

The Guide Book was completely revised last year and a new edition made, which seems to have given universal satisfaction. There were one thousand of the old ones left over, which have since been sold. Also, two thousand three hundred and one of the new edition were sold during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,  
REBECCA B. FLANDRAU, Acting Chairman,  
MARY F. FAILING.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION OF RELICS.

This Committee recommends the purchase of four volumes of Burns' poem that belonged to Nellie Custis, for \$30.00.

The Committee also recommends the purchase of a valuable Washington plate, which was originally at Mount Vernon, for \$200.00.



The Committee recommends the purchase of the following Washington relics, offered by Custis P. Upshur:

1. Tea cup, used at Mount Vernon, and afterwards at Woodlawn and Audley.
2. Fragments of British and Hessian standards surrendered at Yorktown.
3. Fragments of General Washington's black silk queue bag.
4. Pieces of furniture covers used at Philadelphia and Mount Vernon.
5. A razor which belonged to General Washington.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Chairman,  
 GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,  
 ELLEN W. HARRISON,  
 EMMA R. BALL,  
 ANNE C. A. BROWN,  
 MARY F. FAILING.

### REPORT OF FARM COMMITTEE.

On investigating what has been done in our department since last Council, the Committee finds that the crop of hay was particularly good, while the corn and oats were only a fair average.

Weather conditions were largely accountable for shortage of grain produced, but from the character of clay soil on which the corn and oats were grown better results could hardly have been expected.

The prospect this year is somewhat better. The grain fields appear in promising form, and the improved soil selected for corn and oats is an advantage in their favor. The pasture lot near the barn should be broken up next autumn and reseeded. Since discontinuing the dairy herd, the requirements for pasture were, of course, reduced, and with it the farm expenses.

Two of the poorest fields, aggregating 25 acres, were cultivated last year, but made unsatisfactory returns. As recommended, no further attempt to keep them up need now be made.

Rotation of crops will be essential for the open lots near the buildings, in order to preserve the appearance of thrift, and to avoid the tendency of weed growth. Concentrating upon these lots what compost our stables afford, and what can be procured, with occasional application of lime, should so increase their fertility as to yield ample subsistence for the small number of draft animals and deer we now have.

The reclaimed swamp is a gratifying improvement and bids fair in time to be a permanent meadow of utility and attractiveness.

We would advise doing away with the cow barn, and using the lumber to extend the sheds for storing farm implements, etc.

We are informed that a new farm wagon, with broad tires, is needed to replace one that has been in service twenty-five years.

Respectfully submitted,

PHOEBE A. HEARST, Chairman,  
ANNE C. A. BROWN,  
ELLEN W. HARRISON,  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,  
MARGARETTA BARRET,  
FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS,  
FRANCES JONES RICKS.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS, TREES AND SHRUBS.

The illness of the Chairman of your Committee and her consequent absence, leaves the Acting Chairman to make the Committee report.

The work of the building of the Ha Ha wall has been accomplished and is a great addition to the attractiveness of Mount Vernon. Its construction, under the supervision of Mr. Archer, our Resident Engineer, is the result of a careful study of detail, such as the obtaining of old brick and following the original foundations, for which we would express our entire appreciation. As also for Mr. Archer's work in the opening of the drain to complete the drainage of the reclaimed meadow land, which last is now a valuable addition to our cultivated acres.

Your Committee would call attention to the gift from the Vice Regent for Illinois of the azeleas, holly and other plants now growing in front of the Ha Ha wall; these plants are placed to relieve the stiff and new effect produced by the long stretch of brick work and will be removed when the ivy started against the wall shall begin to grow.

Your Committee would beg leave to recommend the repairing of the curved wall next the Butler's House, which is out of line and falling to pieces. Also to pave with brick in front of the Spinning House and near Gardener's House the space now covered with worn grass and always impossible to keep in order, because of the crowds who flock to the Spinning House.

The cobble stone gutters need repairing. The carriage road from Tomb to wharf is badly worn. It should be resurfaced and properly oiled to render it waterproof and dust proof.

Your Committee would call attention to the improvement following the thinning out of the small, self-sown trees in the Deer Park, and would suggest the continuance of this process in order to give greater space for the development of more desirable trees.

Your Committee begs the permission to employ experts, when necessary, to treat such trees as from time to time may require it.

It is recommended that the two red Japanese maples, one near garden gate be removed; also that north of the Quarters a bed of clipped ivy be made, next the base of the climbing ivy, the whole length of wall to replace the worn-out grass; also that flat stones be placed at each doorway of the quarters, to take the wear of feet.

If persimmon trees will grow at Mount Vernon it is recommended that a few be planted in the deer park.

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON, Acting Chairman,  
CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM,  
ELLEN W. HARRISON,  
FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
AMY TOWNSEND,  
MARGARETTA M. BARRET,  
ANNE C. A. BROWN.

The following belated resolution offered by the Vice Regent for Pennsylvania is seconded and voted to be added to the already accepted report of the Grounds, Trees and Shrubs Committee:

*Resolved*, That a nursery of young trees be established, in order to replace in the future any tree which may be removed by death. These young trees to be propagated by seeds or cuttings from trees planted by Washington.

#### REPORT OF PRESS COMMITTEE.

The Acting Chairman of the Press Committee reports information being furnished to the press from day to day during the session of Council. Members of this Committee also contributed articles for the press during the campaign for the protection of Mount Vernon from the criminal reformatory.

ANNE C. A. BROWN, Acting Chairman,  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
MARGARETTA BARRET,  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.

#### REPORT OF RECORD COMMITTEE.

Your Committee has examined the papers and scrap books returned by Mrs. Justine V. R. Townsend, which consist of the following records of the years 1858 and 1859:

Mount Vernon Records, 2 volumes, 1858-60.

Scrap book.

Four copies of New York Ledger.

One copy of Philadelphia Press, July 5, 1876.

Miscellaneous printed matter of small value.

Three volumes manuscript letters, dating from 1858 to 1859.

With the exception of the Mount Vernon Records, all of the above matter has been placed in the secretary in sitting room of Mansion.

There has also been received from the estate of Mrs. Richardson, our late Vice Regent for Louisiana, the following manuscripts and printed matter:

Three volumes Bound Minutes, 1854 to 1905.

One volume bound copy of Washington's will, etc.

The Home of Washington, by Lossing.

Seven Ages of Washington, by Wister.

Recollections and Private Memoirs of Washington, by Curtis.

Bound copy of reports, 1858-1895.

Copy of Maxims of Washington.

Report of Virginia Board of Visitors to Mount Vernon, 1901.

Two Mount Vernon Guide Books, published by Miss L. W. House and Miss Johnston.

Historic Records of Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Washington's Home, by Vice Regent for Connecticut.

Historical Sketch of Ann Pamela Cunningham, by two Vice Regents and by order of Council.

Typewritten copy of Brief History of Mount Vernon, by Thomas Nelson Page.

Bound copy of Mount Vernon Records, July, 1858, to June, 1885.

Index of Resolutions, etc. (2 manuscript copies.)

Resolutions on Constitution and By-Laws (2 manuscript copies).

The Washington Coach, and Powel Coach, by Beal and Brownfield.

Miscellaneous copies of minutes, reports and other pamphlets.

The other books, etc., received December, 1910, and April 25, 1911, are placed in the secretary in the sitting room of Mansion. They are properly labeled.

The Vice Regent for Rhode Island has committed to the care of your Committee several interesting souvenirs of her visit to the English homes of the Washington family; photographs of church and Washington House at Brington; photograph of Sulgrave Manor, and a tidy crocheted at Sulgrave; photograph of tomb at Adwick-le-Street, York, England; list from Parish Register, Adwick-le-Street, of baptisms, marriages and burials of Washington's family in 1733.

Respectfully submitted,

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON, Chairman,  
MARGARETTA BARRET.

### REPORT OF FURNITURE COMMITTEE.

The Furniture Committee recommends that, as some of the rooms are becoming overcrowded, by degrees that which did not belong to Washington should be removed, this to be done after Council adjourns, under the supervision of the Regent, the Regent to consult with the Vice Regent of the State having charge of said room.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER, Chairman,  
CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM,  
ELLEN W. HARRISON,  
HELEN F. CONOVER,  
LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON,  
EMMA R. BALL,  
AMY TOWNSEND.

### REPORT OF MANSION COMMITTEE.

The Mansion is in such excellent condition that the Committee will mention some of the repairs made last year, rather than make suggestions for the year to come.

In the first place, the ladies of the Council cannot have failed to notice the beautiful white paint on the interior of the Mansion. One of the important restorations is the floor in front of General Washington's bedroom; the worn boards have been replaced with new ones of the same kind of wood, and painted or stained to match the original floor. The window sills of the dining room and parlor have been replaced by walnut, making them as they were before.

There is one thing, however, to which it is necessary to call the attention of Council, and that is the condition of the tiles on the east porch. This matter has been brought before the Committee several times in past years, but no action has been taken. These stones are much worn, and it is most desirable that some means of protecting them should be decided upon. Rubber mats to be laid down the center have been suggested, thus exposing to view the sides, which are not subjected to the wear and tear of footsteps.

We would suggest the painting of the Pennsylvania Room, in other words, the Regent's room; and also that the Superintendent use his judgment as to paint and calcimine where necessary on the building.

REBECCA B. FLANDRAU, Chairman,  
MARGARETTA M. BARRET,  
ELLEN W. HARRISON,  
FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS,  
FRANCES JONES RICKS,  
FRANCES C. MAXEY,  
JULIA M. ANDREWS.

### REPORT OF RELIC COMMITTEE.

The Committee has gone over all the relics, dusted them carefully and replaced them, finding all in good order.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER, Chairman,  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,  
MARGARETTA BARRET,  
FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS,  
CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM.  
AMY TOWNSEND.

Report accepted.

After the report of the Relic Committee had been presented and accepted, it was decided to remove the articles from the cabinet in the Music Room. This was undertaken by Mrs. Wilder, Chairman, and Mrs. Pringle and Miss Townsend, who proceeded to find places for them. The two pieces of Washington's own dessert service of china presented by Mr. W. W. Corcoran in 1877; also the Pallisay figure and cup, that belonged to Washington, were placed in the long cabinet in the Banquet Hall. The walking cane of Washington and the swords presented by General Grant, were placed in the cabinet in the second story hall, and the Lafayette quilt in the cabinet in the bedroom next the Nellie Custis room.

### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Committee would report the faithful examination of the financial statements of the Regent (as Treasurer), Superintendent and Gardener, and have compared the bills and vouchers of the past year with the Superintendent's books, finding them entirely satisfactory.

Total revenue .....	\$37,873.85
Total expenses .....	34,045.23

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Balance .....	\$ 3,828.62
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EMMA R. BALL, Chairman,  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM,  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,  
ANNE C. A. BROWN.

### REPORT OF INDEX COMMITTEE.

The Index Committee has gone carefully through the minutes from 1897 to 1910, inclusive, and the result is now presented, printed and bound in pamphlet form.

ELIZA F. LEARY, Chairman  
FRANCES JONES RICKS.

### REPORT OF POST CARD COMMITTEE.

The Post Card Committee reports a large sale of post cards—

Bought of Leet Brothers:

Colored cards, 8,000 sets, at 15 cents.....\$1,200.00

Plain cards, 392 sets, at 12½ cents..... 386.50

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\$1,586.50

Received from cards sold at Mt. Vernon..... 2,670.40

Post cards on hand April 30, 1911..... 390 sets

Net profit for year.....\$1,083.90

Respectfully submitted,

AMY TOWNSEND, Chairman,  
ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,  
MARY F. FAILING.

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STEAMBOAT CONTRACT.

Your Committee begs leave to report that in obedience to the order given by our last Council that an attempt should be made to secure an interchange of tickets between the steamboat and electric railway companies your Committee presented this request to Mr. Mertens, President of the Mount Vernon and Marshall Hall Steamboat Company.

Mr. Mertens endeavored to obtain this agreement but proved unsuccessful, because of the positive refusal of the Interstate Commerce Commission to allow such an interchange to be made.

Mr. Mertens regrets very much his failure in this matter. His letter is herewith offered.

Respectfully submitted,

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON,  
Vice Regent for Connecticut,  
Chairman of Committee.

The following is a copy of Mr. Mertens' letter, referred to in the above report of Mrs. Hudson:

MOUNT VERNON AND MARSHALL HALL STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED,  
INCORPORATED,  
DOCK AND OFFICE, FOOT OF SEVENTH STREET.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6, 1911.

FREDEBICK MERTENS, *President.*

CHAS. P. REES, *Assistant Manager.*

MY DEAR MRS. HUDSON: Your letter of March 30th has just reached me, as I have been out of town for some weeks. I tried very hard to make the arrangement you wrote about, with the electric road, for interchange of tickets, but the Interstate Commerce Commission would not allow such an arrangement to be made.

Hope to see you at Mount Vernon in May, and can assure you you will find the boat in first class shape for your trip. Would be glad to serve you in any other way possible, and regret my inability to get the interchange ticket matter through.

With my kindest regards and best wishes, I am,

Respectfully yours,

F. MERTENS.

### REPORT OF THE KITCHEN GARDEN COMMITTEE.

The Committee on the Kitchen Garden has the honor to report that on visiting the garden they found it in excellent order, neat, the soil well worked, showing labor. The fruit and vegetables are late, owing to the coolness of the season.

It is recommended that great care be taken to rid the garden of the "mock strawberry," etc.

They respectfully suggest the whitewashing of the brick wall facing the entrance gate.

Respectfully submitted,  
ELLEN W. HARRISON, Chairman,  
AMY TOWNSEND,  
SARAH PENDLETON VAN RENSSELAER,  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,  
LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON,  
MARY F. FAILING,  
ELIZA F. LEARY,  
FRANCES J. RICKS,  
JULIA M. ANDREWS.

The Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association in Council assembled, desiring to make acknowledgment of the services of the members in Congress in preventing the location of a Reformatory near Mount Vernon, the following resolution by Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Vice Regent for West Virginia, was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That this Association desires to record its profound appreciation of and heartfelt thanks for the splendid assistance given to the cause of Mount Vernon in the Sixty-first Congress of the United States, both in the Senate and House of Representatives, when there was a question of putting a Government reformatory for criminals of the District of Columbia on the Belvoir tract, adjacent to Mount Vernon. It is owing to their action that the Home and Tomb of Washington have been preserved from desecration. This resolution to be printed in the annual report and a copy sent to each member of the Sixty-first and Sixty-second Congresses.

The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Pringle and carried.

Mrs. Pringle, Vice Regent for South Carolina, offered a resolution of thanks to the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiqui-



ties; the Society of the Cincinnati; the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America; the Daughters of the American Revolution; the United Daughters of the Confederacy and all the patriotic and historical societies as well as private individuals, for their prompt action in protesting against the creation of the Criminal Reformatory in the vicinity of Mt. Vernon. Seconded by Mrs. Van Rensselaer and carried unanimously.

### **LETTER FROM THE COLONIAL DAMES OF KANSAS.**

A communication from the Colonial Dames in the State of Kansas who responded to the appeal for protest against the location of the criminal reformatory near Mount Vernon; also a memorial to Mrs. Ward, passed by the Colonial Dames of Society.

**TO THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION:**

I have the honor to report the Society of Colonial Dames of Kansas at a recent meeting voted a protest against the desecration of Mount Vernon in the proposed establishing of a criminal reformatory at Belvoir, and this protest is being sent to our Kansas Senators and Congressmen. This we were most glad to do for every patriotic reason and we had an added reason in honoring the work of our dear departed Colonial Dame, Mrs. Milan Lester Ward (Jennie Meeker Ward) who labored lovingly and faithfully in your Association for many years.

I have also urged each member of the Order of Descendants of Colonial Governors, of which I am a Chairman for Kansas, to write an individual protest on our official stationery, which I am happy to say is being done.

Trusting the prompt protest of every patriotic body may avert the impending catastrophe and that your Association may continue its noble work under favoring conditions, believe me,

Sincerely and faithfully yours,

(MRS. ELLWOOD D.) LUELLA A. KIMBALL,

Pres. C. D. of A. in Kansas.

Wichita, Feb. 8, 1911.

**MRS. MILAN LESTER WARD.**

**NEW JERSEY NON-COLONIAL DAME No. 507.**

**KANSAS COLONIAL DAME No. 20.**

Sarah Jane Meeker was born in Northfield, New Jersey, September 30th, 1833. She received her education, chiefly in Miss Buckles' Private School for Ladies, in Newark, N. J., and in the Delaware Literary Institute of Franklin, New York. From her youth she manifested a

love of books and of a studious life and upon leaving school began her career, as a teacher, in the schools of Newark. In January, 1858, she was married to Prof. Milan L. Ward and during all the eventful and stirring experiences of their fifty-two years of companionship, she was the sincere helper and cheerful comrade of her gifted and scholarly husband. Mr. Ward's profession, as a teacher, took him to various places of residence, Vermont, Delaware, New York and finally in 1869 to Ottawa, Kansas, to take charge of the Ottawa University. After spending five years in Ottawa Prof. Ward went to Manhattan to fill a chair in the Agricultural College. Mrs. Ward remained in Ottawa and with Mrs. Ruth Griffin, now of Washington, D. C., carried on the work of the University. Later she joined her husband in Manhattan, where they remained some years, but in 1883 returned to Ottawa to make it their permanent home.

Mrs. Ward's life might be called a long, sweet song in its manifold and varied activities for the uplifting and betterment of the world, in every phase, in which she met it. She was a devout member of the Baptist Church, doing her full complement of church and missionary work, a zealous W. C. T. U. worker, an enthusiastic and progressive club woman, a Daughter of the American Revolution, a member of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, a Colonial Dame and an aider and abettor of every good work, that came in her way, great or small. It is difficult to say in which of all her various interests she was most efficient or for which she felt the keenest sympathy, but none of her work was more telling than that she did in the Mount Vernon Association. For twenty years she visited Mount Vernon annually representing the State of Kansas as Regent, and later serving as National Secretary of the Association. Her chief accomplishment in this connection was the restoration of the servants' quarters at Washington's old home. For this purpose she raised one thousand dollars among the school children of Kansas. With the assistance of several public men of the State she had compiled a volume in which the name of every contributor was recorded, and this book is now kept at Mount Vernon, a memorial to those who gave and to Mrs. Ward as the master-spirit of the enterprise.

As a neighbor and friend Mrs. Ward was most delightful. A lady of Manhattan pays this tribute of love and appreciation: "To one who for seven long, beautiful, helpful years lived next neighbor to Mrs. M. L. Ward, the news of her death at Ottawa, comes as a personal loss. For over two thousand and five hundred days I went in and out of her home, where the atmosphere was ennobling in every respect, and all my future life became richer because of this next neighbor and what this meant to me, as a younger fellow-worker, it has meant to every one who came under the influence of this beautiful woman."

Although Mrs. Ward had been a member of the Society of Colonial Dames for a comparatively brief period, she rendered valuable service as a member of the Board of Managers of the Kansas band of Dames. The ideals and aspirations of the organization appealed to her in an especial manner, and she sincerely appreciated and seconded every effort for their fulfillment.

Prof. and Mrs. Ward were happy, not only in celebrating the fifty golden years of their married life, but also in adding two more milestones to their journey together. Mrs. Ward died, after a lingering illness, in Ottawa, July 15th, 1910. Mrs. Ward's life of useful effort, serene faith and happy achievement is a lesson and an example, so clearly written that, he who runs may read, and now she rests from her labors and her works do follow her.

MARY THACHER EMERY,

December 14th, 1910.

Historian.

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Mrs. Pringle, Vice Regent for South Carolina, moved a resolution of regret on the death of Chief Justice Fuller, a member of the Advisory Board, and that a copy be sent to the family. Seconded by Mrs. Hudson and carried. The following is the resolution adopted:

*Resolved*, By the Regent and Vice Regents of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association in Council assembled that they desire to put on record their sorrow for the loss of their advisor, Chief Justice Fuller, and their appreciation of his valuable services.

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Mr. Arthur T. Brice, of Washington, has been elected to fill the office of Treasurer made vacant by the death of Mr. E. Francis Riggs. The Association is fortunate in securing the services of one so competent to fill the trust and so deeply imbued with a love and veneration for Mount Vernon.

#### GOVERNOR'S DAY.

Tuesday, May 16th, having been set aside for the reception of the Governor of Virginia and the Board of Visitors, no sessions of Council were held.

The banquet hall was arranged as a reception room, and all evidence of business was removed. Mrs. Rathbone, Chairman of the Committee on Garden and Greenhouse, decorated the room with old-fashioned flowers from the garden.

The Regent and Vice Regents assembled here to receive the guests. Governor Mann was prevented from coming; also Lieutenant Governor Ellyson, and Mr. Thomas F. Ryan, of Nelson County, Virginia. Hon. William A. Anderson, Lexington, Virginia; Mr. L. Z. Morris, Richmond, and Mr. A. D. Brockett, of Alexandria, came, with the Governor's Sec-

retary, Mr. Benjamin P. Owen. These gentlemen all expressed themselves with satisfaction and pleasure at the condition and management of Mount Vernon in a few happy remarks. The Regent responded for the Association.

Colonel Slayden, of Texas, and Colonel Herbert and Mrs. Ellyson added their testimony in a few well chosen words. Mr. Lawrence Washington, always a welcome guest to his old home, gave an interesting sketch of the conditions existing at Mount Vernon when it was bought from his father by the Association. He remembered it all clearly and mentioned that his father had declined three hundred thousand dollars for Mount Vernon, preferring to sell to the State of Virginia, or the United States Government for two hundred thousand. Both declining he was persuaded of the patriotic intentions and ideals of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and decided to sell to them for the same sum. Illness prevented Mrs. Taft from being present, to the great regret of all.

Luncheon was served in the Library and later the guests departed by boat and trolley for Washington.

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With great regret many of the Vice Regents found it impossible to accept the invitation of Mrs. Taft to the White House, on Friday afternoon, May 19th, as Council was about to adjourn and important work remained to be done. A small party represented the Association at the reception, however, which was as usual a delightful occasion.

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Invitations were received from Mrs. Matthew T. Scott, President General of the Daughters of the American Revolution; and also from Mrs. Julian-James of Washington to afternoon tea. The Vice Regents were forced to decline both, as the seriousness of the work during Council precludes social festivities during the hours for sessions.

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The rebuilding of the Screen and Ha Ha walls on the old foundations practically completes the restoration of Mount Vernon to its original appearance as a plantation. Attention is now directed to the interior of the mansion, looking to a gradual recovery of the furnishings in use when occupied by Washington and his family. This may require many years of persistent effort, but, in the meantime, the rooms are preserved from a bare and desolate appearance by the many gifts and loans of furniture that belonged to the period, if not to Washington, and is an acceptable substitute until the original pieces are recovered. The

following resolutions inaugurating this movement were duly seconded and adopted by Council:

Mrs. Wilder, Vice Regent for Georgia, offered the following resolution:

*Whereas* the paramount object of this Association is to restore as nearly as possible the features of Washington's Home as he had it, and

*Whereas* the recently acquired inventory made by the appraisers of Washington's effects indicate every article of furniture in each room at the time of his death, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That, as rapidly as can be accomplished original articles (when secured) shall be placed where they formerly belonged and anything not connected with Washington or Mount Vernon be retired.

The foregoing resolution, after being seconded by Mrs. Ball, Vice Regent for Virginia, was adopted by Council.

Mrs. Harrison, Vice Regent for Pennsylvania, offered the following resolution:

*Whereas*, owing to the interest, as well as the generosity of the people of his country in placing at Mount Vernon articles of great historic value, but not having belonged to Washington, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association finds itself obliged to decline, in future, all such offers, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association receive in the future by gift, loan or purchase to be placed in the Mansion only articles owned by General Washington, Mrs. Washington, or their immediate families.

### LETTER FROM TOBIAS LEAR

Among the bequests of Miss Margaret B. Smith to Mt. Vernon last year was an autograph letter from Tobias Lear, Washington's Secretary, to his mother, giving an account of the last hours and funeral of General Washington. Having been received after the adjournment of Council last year, the Regent requested the Corresponding Secretary to read the letter to the Council and it was then ordered to be printed in the minutes and reports of 1911.

MOUNT VERNON, December 16, 1799.

MY DEAR AND HONORED MOTHER:

It is a long time since I wrote to you, but I hope you will not impute it to a want of duty or affection.

Before this reaches you, the information of the death of the greatest and best of men will have got to Portsmouth. A loss so great and so sudden can hardly be realized. It appears to me yet as a dream. Nothing but the duty which I owe to his memory, and the constant call upon me to prepare everything to commit his remains to the

Tomb, keep me from yielding to immoderate grief. I will, in the best manner I am able, give you a circumstantial account of the illness and death of my revered and beloved friend.

On Thursday last the weather was very disagreeable, a constant fall of rain, snow and hail, with a pretty high wind. Before it came on the General had rode out to visit his farms as usual, and as he never regarded the weather, he kept out from about ten till three o'clock. When he came in I observed that he was very wet about his hair and neck and told him that I was afraid he would take cold; he said there was no danger, for his great coat had kept him from getting wet. On Friday he complained of a sore throat, but considering it as a trifling matter he took no measure to remove it; for he was always averse to nursing himself for any slight complaint. About 3 o'clock on Saturday morning he became ill, and at daylight Mrs. Washington sent for me to come to him, which I did, and immediately dispatched a servant to Alexandria for Dr. Craik, as I found he could scarcely speak, and breathed with difficulty, his complaint being an inflammatory sore throat, usually called quincy. Doctor Craik finding his situation alarming, we sent for Doctor Dick of Alexandria, and Doctor Brown of Port Tobacco, who came with all possible dispatch. Every aid that medicine could give was administered, but without the desired effect, and between ten and eleven o'clock at night he resigned his breath into the hand that gave it. His distress, through the day, was extreme; but not a groan or a complaint escaped him. With the most perfect resignation, and in full possession of his reason to the last moment he gave up his life. I never quitted him through the whole scene for a moment, and if anything can console me for his loss it is the belief that I gave ease to his last moments by holding him up at times and helping him to move when he was in great distress to get breath, which caused him to be constantly changing his position. Although he could speak but very seldom, and that in a manner scarcely to be understood, and with extreme pain, yet the kind and grateful looks which he gave me, when endeavoring to alleviate his pain by supporting or moving him, afforded me a heartfelt satisfaction, under the severe affliction which I felt for him.

He was fully sensible of his approaching dissolution for some time before we could persuade ourselves but that there was a hope left, and he frequently told the physicians that their efforts would be in vain. To the last moment he wished to be useful as often as he could speak he would mention to me something which he wished to have done. And his last words, about a quarter of an hour before he died, were to me thus: "My dear friend, I am just about to change the scene, my breath can continue but a few moments. You will have me decently interred, and do not let my body be put into the Tomb in less than two days after my death." He then felt his own pulse. I took his

hand between mine, the pulse ceased, and he was launched into happier scenes. How I supported it through the afflicting scenes of the day I can not tell; but I never felt more collected in my life; a constant wish to relieve his distress occupied all my mind; but when he was no more my heart sank within me, and nothing but the reflection that I had duties committed to me, which were indispensable, could have roused me from a torpid grief.

The pious resignation and virtuous fortitude of Mrs. Washington in this distressing scene is beyond description. She never quitted the room during the whole time, and when the last breath was drawn she asked me, with a collected countenance and a firm voice, "Is he gone?" I could not speak, but held up my hand as a signal that he was no more; but, with the same voice, she observed, "It is now all over; I have no more trials to pass through in this life; I shall soon follow him, and rejoice when that moment arrives." Since that time she has preserved the same pious fortitude. It afflicts me to see her. The world now appears to be no longer desirable to her, and yet she yields not to that grief which would be softened by tears.

On Wednesday, at twelve o'clock, the remains will be deposited in the Tomb, and America will mourn the loss of the first and greatest of men.

I saw my dear children about six weeks ago, and spent a fortnight with them. They enjoy fine health and promise to be a comfort to me. They talked much of Grandmamma Lear. Lincoln has not forgotten his Uncle and Aunt Storer and his cousins. My own health, by the blessing of God, is perfectly restored. I was never better in my life than I have been for two or three months past. But the late melancholy event shows that we must not confide in our own strength or constitution; for the General was never heartier since I have known him than he was two days before he died.

Give my affectionate regards to my brother and sister Storer and their dear children, and remember me affectionately and respectfully to all our friends.

I have written this letter late in the night, and in the present situation of everything here I hardly know how I have expressed it. I beg that no part of it, therefore, may be published; for I presume that everything which relates to this afflicting event will be eagerly sought after by the public.

I am, my dear and honored mother, your most dutiful and affectionate son,

TOBIAS LEAR.

A letter was read from the Washington Secular League, sending a copy of a letter from Thos. Paine in reference to the key to the Bastile, which was sent by Lafayette to Washington by the hand of Thos. Paine. The letter, copy of which is given below, is now framed and hangs in the hall near the famous key.

GENL. GEORGE WASHINGTON, LONDON, ENGLAND, May 1st, 1790.

SIR: Our good friend, the Marquis de Lafayette, has entrusted to my care the Key to the Bastile and a drawing, handsomely framed, representing the demolition of that detestable prison, as a present to your Excellency, of which this letter will more particularly inform. I feel myself happy in being the person through whom the Marquis has conveyed this early trophy of the Spoils of Despotism—the first ripe fruits of American principles transplanted into Europe—to his great master and patron. When he mentioned to me the present he intended my heart leaped with joy.

It is something so truly in character that no remarks can illustrate it, and it is more happily expressive of his remembrance of his American friends than any letters can convey.

That the principles of America opened the Bastile is not to be doubted, and therefore the key comes to the right place.

(Signed) THOMAS PAINE.

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Among the visitors to Mt. Vernon during Council was Madam Ambrozovics, of Buda Pesth, Hungary, the favorite niece of the Patriot Louis Kossuth. She came to this country to make a pilgrimage to Mt. Vernon, being an ardent admirer of Washington. She asked the privilege of saying a few words to the Vice Regents, and told of having made a sketch of the private life and character of Washington in her own language for her people.

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Woodlawn, the beautiful home of "Nelly Custis" after her marriage with Mr. Lawrence Lewis, has been restored and furnished in the old style of its owner, Miss Sharp. It was the privilege of a party of the Vice Regents to spend a delightful evening in this historic old mansion at the invitation of Miss Sharp, who in this way renews the intercourse that existed of old between Mount Vernon and Woodlawn.

The Council of 1911 adjourned Saturday, May 20th, to meet the second Thursday in May, 1912.

FRANCIS JOHNSON ROGERS,  
Secretary to Councils.



## STANDING COMMITTEES

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### FINANCE.

Mrs. Rathbone, chairman; Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Leary.

### MANSION.

Mrs. Barret, chairman; Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Ricks, Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Richards.

### FURNITURE.

Mrs. Graham, chairman; Mrs. Wilder, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Leary, Miss Evarts.

### LIBRARY.

Mrs. Conover, chairman; Miss Longfellow, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Johnston, Miss Failing, Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Miss Evarts.

### GROUNDS AND SHRUBS.

Mrs. Hudson, chairman; Mrs. Leiter, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Maxey.

### GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE.

Mrs. Rathbone, chairman; Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Leiter, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Foster.

### KITCHEN GARDEN.

Mrs. Van Rensselaer, chairman; Mrs. Harrison, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Andrews, Miss Failing, Mrs. Ricks.

### FARM.

Mrs. Harrison, chairman; Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Ricks.

### TOMB.

Mrs. Rathbone, chairman; Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Flandrau, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Foster.

### **RELICS.**

Mrs. Hearst, chairman; Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Webb, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Richards.

### **RECORD.**

Mrs. Leary, chairman; Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Barret.

### **BY-LAWS.**

Mrs. Leary, chairman; Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Brown.

### **INDEX.**

Mrs. Leary, chairman; Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Ricks.

### **PARLIAMENTARY RULES.**

Mrs. Leary, chairman; Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Barret.

### **PRESS.**

Mrs. Rathbone, chairman; Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Pringle.

### **GUIDE BOOK.**

Mrs. Webb, chairman; Miss Longfellow, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Flandrau, Miss Failing.

### **POST CARDS.**

Mrs. Rathbone, chairman; Miss Townsend, Miss Failing.

### **INVESTIGATION OF WASHINGTON RELICS.**

Mrs. Wilder, chairman; Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Brown, Miss Failing.

# THE FAREWELL ADDRESS

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## OF THE FOUNDER AND FIRST REGENT OF THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION

**T**O the Council of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of June, 1874. Ladies: It was my intention, as well as my duty, to have met you at this time and conformed in person to the legal requisition accompanying a resignation so important as mine; but Providence does not permit.

But in parting, I feel it due to you, as to me; to the responsibilities I solemnly assumed, which were so important in their results; to those you have taken upon yourselves; to say a few words as to those responsibilities or duties, laid down in the beginning of our work, not to be lightly regarded, for they were pledges to future generations as well as to ours. The minds and hearts which conceived the rescue of the home of Washington; of the completion of a worthy "tribute" to public integrity and private virtue; an expression of the gratitude due and felt by a country destined to act such an important part in the drama of the world; conceived it with all the reverence felt in older regions for the resting-places of their honored dead; where only pious hands are permitted to be in "charge," so as to have them carried down to admiring ages in the same condition as when left.

Such was the pledge made to the American heart when an appeal was made to it to save the home and tomb of Washington, the father of his country, from all change, whether by law or desecration. Such, to the last owner of Mount Vernon, ere he was willing to permit it to pass from his hands. Such to the Legislature of his Mother State, ere she gave us legal rights over it. Such are we bound to keep. Our honor is concerned, as well as our intelligence and legal obligations. The mansion and the grounds around it should be religiously guarded from change—should be kept as Washington left them.

Ladies, the home of Washington is in your charge, see to it that you keep it the home of Washington. Let no irreverent hand change it; no vandal hands desecrate it with the fingers of progress! Those who go to the home in which he lived and died, wish to see in what he lived and died. Let one spot in this grand country of ours be saved from change! Upon you rests this duty.

When the Centennial comes, bringing with it its thousands from the ends of the earth, to whom the home of Washington will be the place of places in our country, let them see that, though we slay our forests, remove our dead, pull down our churches, remove from home to home, till the hearthstone seems to have no resting place in America, let them see that we do know how to care for the home of our Hero! Farewell!

Ladies, I return to your hands the office so long held—since December 2nd, 1853.

Respectfully,

June 1st, 1874.

ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM.

## THE REGENTS AND VICE REGENTS OF THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION

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Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, Regent, 1853-1873.

Resigned 1873; died May 1, 1875.

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### VICE REGENTS APPOINTED 1858.

1. Mrs. Anna Cora Ogden Ritchie, resigned 1866.....Virginia
2. Mrs. Alice H. Dickinson, resigned 1859.....North Carolina
3. Mrs. Philoclea Edgeworth Eve, died 1889.....Georgia
4. Mrs. Octavia Walton LeVert, died 1877.....Alabama
5. Mrs. Catharine A. MacWillie, died 1872.....Mississippi
6. Mrs. Margaretta S. Morse, resigned 1872.....Louisiana
7. Mrs. Mary Rutledge Fogg, died 1872.....Tennessee
8. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Walton, resigned 1858.....Missouri
9. Miss Mary Morris Hamilton, resigned 1866.....New York
10. Mrs. Louisa Ingersoll Greenough, resigned 1865.....Massachusetts
11. Mrs. Abba Isabella Little, resigned 1866.....Maine
12. Mrs. Catharine Willis Murat, died 1867.....Florida
13. Mrs. Mary Bootes Goodrich, resigned 1864.....Connecticut
14. Miss Phebe Ann Ogden, died 1867.....New Jersey
15. Mrs. Alice Key Pendleton, resigned 1863, died 1885.....Ohio
16. Mrs. Abby Wheaton Chace, died 1892.....Rhode Island
17. Mrs. Jane Maria Antwerp, died.....Iowa
18. Mrs. Margaret Ann Comegys, died 1888.....Delaware
19. Mrs. Hannah Blake Farnsworth, died 1879.....Michigan
20. Mrs. Sarah King Hale, resigned 1861.....New Hampshire
21. Mrs. Martha Mitchell, died 1902.....Wisconsin
22. Mrs. Rosa Vertner Johnson Jeffreys, died 1894.....Kentucky
- Mrs. Janet M. E. Riggs, Acting Vice Regent..District of Columbia

1859.

23. Mrs. Elizabeth Willard Barry, died 1883.....Illinois
24. Mrs. Sarah J. Sibley, died 1869.....Minnesota
25. Mrs. Mary Pepperell Jarvis Cutts, resigned 1878.....Vermont
26. Mrs. Lilly Lytle Macalester, died 1891.....Pennsylvania

- 27. Mrs. Magadelan G. Blanding, resigned 1884.....California
- 28. Mrs. Harriet B. Fitch, died 1880.....Indiana
- 29. Mrs. Sarah H. Johnson, died 1866.....Arkansas
- 30. Mrs. Letitia Harper Walker, died 1908.....North Carolina

1860.

- 31. Mrs. Ann Lucas Hunt, died 1878.....Missouri
- 32. Mrs. Mary Chestnut, died 1867.....South Carolina

1866.

- 33. Mrs. Margaret J. M. Sweet, died 1908.....Maine
- 34. Mrs. Emily L. Harper, died 1891.....Maryland
- 35. Miss Lucy H. Pickens, died August, 1899.....South Carolina
- 36. Mrs. M. E. Hickman, resigned 1874.....Nevada
- 37. Mrs. M. A. Stearns, resigned 1873.....New Hampshire
- 38. Mrs. Emily R. M. Hewson, resigned 1872.....Ohio
- 39. Miss Ella Hutchins, resigned 1872.....Texas

1867.

- 40. Mrs. Janet M. C. Riggs, resigned 1868.....District of Columbia
- 41. Mrs. Maria Brooks, resigned 1876.....New York
- 42. Mrs. Matilda W. Emory, resigned 1873.....District of Columbia

1868.

- 43. Mrs. Nancy Wade Halsted, died 1891.....New Jersey
- 44. Mrs. Nannie C. Yulee, died 1884.....Florida

1870.

- 45. Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson.....Connecticut
- 46. Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, died 1898.....West Virginia

1872.

- 47. Mrs. Betsy C. Mason, died 1873.....Virginia
- 48. Mrs. A. P. Dillon, resigned 1873, died 1898.....Iowa
- 49. Mrs. C. L. Scott, resigned 1878.....Arkansas

1873.

- 50. Mrs. William Balfour, resigned 1875.....Mississippi
- 51. Mrs. Mary T. Barnes.....District of Columbia
- 52. Mrs. David Urquehart, resigned 1876.....Louisiana
- 53. Mrs. M. E. Maverick, resigned 1873.....Texas

(This was the last appointment of Miss Cunningham, First Regent.)

**MRS. LILY M. BERGHMAN,**

(Made Acting Regent 1873, and Regent June, 1874.)

**Second Regent.**

**Died 1891.**

**Vice Regents Appointed 1874.**

54. Mrs. Emma Reed Ball.....Virginia  
55. Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, died 1889.....Tennessee

**1875.**

56. Mrs. Lily L. Broadwell, died 1889.....Ohio  
57. Mrs. John P. Jones, resigned 1876.....Nevada

**1876.**

58. Mrs. Jennie Meeker Ward.....Kansas  
59. Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend.....New York

**1878.**

60. Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, resigned 1884.....Vermont

**1879.**

61. Miss Alice Longfellow.....Massachusetts  
62. Mrs. Robert Campbell, died 1882.....Missouri

**1880.**

63. Mrs. Ida A. Richardson, died 1910.....Louisiana

**1882.**

64. Mrs. Ella S. Herbert, died 1884.....Alabama

**1885.**

65. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Adams Rathbone.....Michigan  
66. Mrs. Mary T. Leiter.....Illinois  
67. Mrs. Janet Dekay King, died 1896.....Vermont  
68. Mrs. Elizabeth Woodward, died 1897.....Kentucky

**1888.**

69. Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys.....Delaware  
70. Mrs. Fannie Gilchrist Baker, died 1901.....Florida

**1889.**

71. Mrs. Alice Hill, died 1908.....Colorado  
72. Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau.....Minnesota  
73. Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst.....California

1890.

74. Mrs. A. R. Winder, died 1906.....New Hampshire

1891.

75. Mrs. Georgia Page Wilder.....Georgia  
(This was the last nomination of Mrs. Lily Macalester Laughton,  
second Regent (Madame Berghmann), who died Nov. 4, 1891.).

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MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND.

Third Regent.

(Elected temporary Regent December, 1891, and Regent June, 1892.)

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Vice Regents Appointed 1893.

76. Mrs. George R. Goldsborough, resigned 1904; died 1906..Maryland  
77. Mrs. J. Dundas Lippincott, died 1894.....Pennsylvania  
78. Mrs. Mary Lloyd Pendleton, resigned 1897.....Ohio  
79. Mrs. Philip Schuyler, resigned 1894.....New York  
80. Mrs. Christine Blair Graham.....Missouri  
81. Mrs. Francis S. Conover.....New Jersey  
82. Mrs. Mary Polk Yeatman Webb.....Tennessee

1894.

83. Miss Leila Herbert, died 1897.....Alabama

1895.

84. Mrs. Robert H. Clarkson, resigned 1900; died 1902.....Nebraska  
85. Mrs. Wm. Ames, died 1904.....Rhode Island  
86. Miss Amy Townsend.....New York

1896.

87. Mrs. Chas. Custis Harrison.....Pennsylvania  
88. Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey.....Texas

1897.

89. Mrs. James Campbell, resigned 1902.....Ohio

1900.

90. Mrs. Robert D. Johnston.....Alabama  
91. Mrs. C. F. Manderson.....Nebraska  
92. Mrs. Eugene Van Rensselaer.....West Virginia



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93. Mrs. J. J. Pringle.....  
 94. Mrs. Wm. F. Barret.....  
 95. Mrs. Charles Denby, died Dec.

190

96. Mrs. Henry W. Rogers.....

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97. Mrs. Frances Jones Ricks.....  
 98. Mrs. Lewis Irwin.....  
 99. Mrs. J. Carter Brown.....  
 100. Miss Mary F. Failing.....  
 101. Mrs. Eliza F. Leary.....

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102. Mrs. A. B. Andrews.....  
 This was the last nomination of 1  
 send, Third Regent.

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#### MISS HARRIET CL

Fourth 1

Elected M

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#### VICE REGENTS A

- Mrs. James Gore King Richards...  
 Miss Mary Evarts.....  
 Mrs. Antoine Lentilhon Foster.. ..





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ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association  
of the Union**

ANNUAL COUNCIL

*held at*

MOUNT VERNON-ON-THE-POTOMAC  
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA.

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*May 9 to 18, 1912*



**OFFICERS**  
*of the*  
**Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union**

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**REGENT.**

MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS, "The Green," Dover, Del.

**VICE REGENTS.**

MRS. SUSAN E. J. HUDSON, Connecticut.

MRS. CHARLES B. BALL, Virginia.

MISS ALICE M. LONGFELLOW, Massachusetts.

MRS. ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Michigan.

MRS. MARY T. LEITER, Illinois.

MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST, California.

MRS. J. J. WILDER, Georgia.

MRS. CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM, Missouri.

MRS. FRANCIS S. CONOVER, New Jersey.

MRS. THOMAS SHAPARD WEBB, SR., Tennessee.

MISS AMY TOWNSEND, New York.

MRS. CHARLES CUSTIS HARRISON, Pennsylvania.

MRS. THOMAS S. MAXEY, Texas.

MRS. ROBERT D. JOHNSTON, Alabama.

MRS. CHARLES F. MANDERSON, Nebraska.

MRS. EUGENE VAN RENSSELAER, West Virginia.

MRS. JOHN JULIUS PRINGLE, South Carolina.

MRS. WILLIAM F. BARRET, Kentucky.

MRS. HENRY W. ROGERS, Maryland.

MRS. LEWIS W. IRWIN, Ohio.

MRS. FRANCES J. RICKS, Mississippi.

MISS MARY F. FAILING, Oregon.

MRS. ELIZA F. LEARY, Washington.

MRS. J. CARTER BROWN, Rhode Island.

MRS. A. B. ANDREWS, North Carolina.

MRS. JAMES GORE KING RICHARDS, Maine.

MISS MARY EVARTS, Vermont.

MRS. ANTOINE LENTILHON FOSTER, Delaware.

MISS ANNIE RAGAN KING, Louisiana.

MISS JANE A. RIGGS, District of Columbia.

#### **RECORDING SECRETARY.**

MRS. HENRY W. ROGERS, Rider P. O., Baltimore Co., Md.

#### **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.**

MRS. JOHN JULIUS PRINGLE, "Chicora Wood," Georgetown, S. C.  
R. F. D. 1.

#### **TREASURER.**

MR. ARTHUR T. BRICE, 1711 M Street, Washington, D. C.

#### **RESIDENT SUPERINTENDENT.**

MR. HARRISON H. DODGE, Mt. Vernon-on-the-Potomac, Va.

#### **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT.**

MR. JAMES YOUNG, Mt. Vernon-on-the-Potomac, Va.

#### **RESIDENT ENGINEER.**

MR. JAMES R. ARCHER, Mt. Vernon-on-the-Potomac, Va.

#### **GENERAL COUNSEL.**

MR. J. J. DARLINGTON, 1610 Twentieth Street, Washington, D. C.

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

MR. LEWIS CASS LEDYARD, 2 East 87th St., New York City, N. Y.

HON. GEORGE GRAY, Wilmington, Del.

MAJOR WILLIAM ANDERSON, Lexington, Va.

1912

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ANNUAL REPORT*of the***Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union**

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The Board of Regents of the Association met in Annual Council on Thursday, May 9, 1912. Twenty-six ladies being present.

Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys, Regent, Delaware.  
Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson, Vice Regent, Connecticut.  
Mrs. Charles B. Ball, Vice Regent, Virginia.  
Miss Alice M. Longfellow, Vice Regent, Massachusetts.  
Mrs. Elizabeth B. A. Rathbone, Vice Regent, Michigan.  
Mrs. Mary T. Leiter, Vice Regent, Illinois.  
Mrs. J. J. Wilder, Vice Regent, Georgia.  
Mrs. Christine Blair Graham, Vice Regent, Missouri.  
Mrs. Thomas Shapard Webb, Vice Regent, Tennessee.  
Miss Amy Townsend, Vice Regent, New York.  
Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey, Vice Regent, Texas.  
Mrs. Robert D. Johnston, Vice Regent, Alabama.  
Mrs. Eugene Van Rensselaer, Vice Regent, West Virginia.  
Mrs. John Julius Pringle, Vice Regent, South Carolina.  
Mrs. William F. Barret, Vice Regent, Kentucky.  
Mrs. Henry W. Rogers, Vice Regent, Maryland.  
Mrs. Lewis W. Irwin, Vice Regent, Ohio.  
Mrs. Frances J. Ricks, Vice Regent, Mississippi.  
Miss Mary F. Failing, Vice Regent, Oregon.  
Mrs. Eliza F. Leary, Vice Regent, Washington.  
Mrs. J. Carter Brown, Vice Regent, Rhode Island.  
Mrs. A. B. Andrews, Vice Regent, North Carolina.  
Mrs. James Gore King Richards, Vice Regent, Maine.  
Miss Mary Evarts, Vice Regent, Vermont.  
Mrs. Antoine Lentilhon Foster, Vice Regent, Delaware.  
Miss Annie Ragan King, Vice Regent, Louisiana.



## REGENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

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### LADIES:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Mount Vernon, and to find so many States represented at this Council. In the name of the Association, I add a special greeting to our Vice Regents for Maine, Vermont and Delaware, who, for the first time since their election, take their seats at our Council Board for active service.

Before entering upon my report the melancholy duty devolves upon me of announcing to Council officially that within the past year we have lost by death three of our highly esteemed colleagues. Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend, our beloved Honorary Regent, passed away on the 6th of April, after a short illness. Although she had not been strong enough for the past three years to meet us here, she was with us in spirit always, and one of the last wishes was "that she might go to the annual meeting of the Vice Regents to bid them good-bye." As our presiding officer, we all loved her and felt entire confidence in her sound judgment and conservative views. Gifted with an exquisite courtesy and tact, she was self-reliant, broad-minded and direct, and guarded our Mount Vernon interests with untiring vigilance. It was our happiness, in our familiar intercourse with her, to enjoy those rare social qualities which were her distinctive characteristics and made her such a delightful companion at all times. She laid down a life full of honor and Christian graces, and in her death I feel a sense of personal loss.

The sad tidings came in December that Mrs. Flandrau had entered into rest. For twenty-two years she represented Minnesota in this association—years of active service for Mount Vernon. She loved her duties on our Board, and was absolutely fitted for them in every way, her interest never flagging. Her rare qualities of mind and heart have made an enduring impression on those whose privilege it was to know her well. I have learned that apparently without pain the end came. "God's finger touched her and she slept."

In the death of Mrs. Barnes we have lost another of the older members of our association. Miss Cunningham appointed her Vice Regent for the District of Columbia at the last Council over which she presided—that of 1873. For some years past, on account of ill health, she found it impossible to be present at Councils, but she was always most ready to aid us whenever her influence was needed. Her special interest

of late years has been the garden, and many of our old-fashioned flowers were brought here by Mrs. Barnes from colonial gardens of her friends. She will be remembered always as a gentlewoman of the best type.

The very important question as to what the Government would do with "Belvoir" has finally been decided. In February, 1911, Congress refused to allow a criminal reformatory to be established there, in such close proximity to Mount Vernon. We felt profound gratitude to our patriotic countrymen who aided us in securing the passage of that bill. We were mindful, however, of the necessity for having this tract used for some good purpose; therefore, our energies and best efforts have been put forth during the past twelve months in aiding to carry out a plan to have the Government turn the tract over for use by the War Department. Early in January, Senator Martin and Representative Carlin, of Virginia, introduced in both houses of Congress a bill "to transfer to the Secretary of War jurisdiction over the site acquired for a reformatory for the District of Columbia in Fairfax County, Virginia," etc. These bills, as you know, were referred to both Committees on Military Affairs. We all realized the various stages of the progress of the Senate bill—on to the War Department for approval, and finally back again to the Senate, through the Military Affairs Committee of that body, added as an amendment to the House Army Bill. The Conference Committee, into whose hands it finally passed, transferred this tract to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of War, "to be used for a remount station for the cavalry, or for kindred purposes."

Mount Vernon could not have more fitting neighbors than the Equitation School of the Army, and it is for this purpose that the Secretary of War may use this peninsula, which was, at one time, the home of Lord Fairfax, the friend of Washington.\*

We are deeply indebted to General Wood, who initiated the movement towards making this transfer; to Senator Martin and Mr. Carlin, who, through two successive sessions of Congress, have given much of their time and talents that proper protection might be insured to Mount Vernon outside our boundary lines on the south, and to the Senators and Representatives of the Sixty-second Congress, who gave attention to our appeals and made the passage of the bills possible.

Our Treasurer, Mr. Brice, who generously gives to our association much of his valuable time in attending to our financial interests, will make his annual report to you tomorrow morning. From his letters to me you will learn that in July certain matured loans were renewed, being amply secured, and bonds called for payment were reinvested in new 5% bonds in the same company, with additional security given.

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\*Since the adjournment of Council, the Army Appropriation Bill has been vetoed by the President. This will necessitate reaction by Congress, but there is no reason to fear that the transfer of Belvoir will be affected thereby.—Note by Secretary.

In November a real estate investment loan having been paid off the amount was added to the cash balance of the Endowment Fund, which, happily, this year was not needed, as a loan, to meet our expenses, and two safe investments were made for account of our Endowment Fund. Mr. Brice will give you all the details in connection with these transactions. For what I am specially responsible, as Regent, you will find in my own financial statement.

I am able to report, as usual, that all the work provided for and ordered by last Council has been completed, most satisfactorily, as our committees will find in making their tours of inspection. That fifteen old buildings, such as we have here, may be kept in perfect order, the work of repair goes on unceasingly. When our employees are off guard duty they may be found at work somewhere on the place, after our gates are closed, with their tools and brushes. I am glad to be able to tell you that with one exception our employees and their families were fairly well throughout the year. One coachman barely escaped pneumonia in the winter, but has quite recovered and is again fit for duty.

The reports of the Superintendent, which I receive at the close of every month, with his financial statements of receipts and expenditures, and his necessarily frequent—indeed, almost daily—letters, keep me in very close touch with Mount Vernon. In making my periodical visits here, I have learned to know conditions which exist at different seasons, and invariably find the estate well cared for. Mr. Dodge was not well after Council adjourned, owing to the intense heat here in May, when his strength was overtaxed. I, therefore, granted his request for a change of air and rest, which his physician recommended. After an absence of ten days he returned quite refreshed and ready again for duty here. Before he went north, on the 24th of July, for his summer vacation, much of the work ordered by Council had been completed under his supervision, and when he returned two months later he reported that the work he had planned before going away had been finished under Mr. Young's direction. Our Assistant Superintendent took his vacation in July, and had his family with him at Mount Vernon in the summer.

Before Mrs. Graham went abroad last year she asked to be allowed to have 100 feet added to the wall running west from the North Lodge Gate. I speedily assured her how highly Council would appreciate this generous gift from our Vice Regent for Missouri. The wall was completed by the 11th of October, and ivy is now growing along its entire length.

In September the Commissioners of Public Roads requested assistance from us in repairing the approach from Alexandria, of which I knew you would approve. This required the use of one of our teams for a day and the services of one of our men.

On the 1st day of last July I came to Mount Vernon for the express purpose of seeing what flowers were blooming in the garden at that season. Of course, the spring bloom was over, which we see in perfection when we come in May, and the summer flowers were struggling for existence under the burning rays of the sun; nevertheless, the garden was lovely. The heat continued throughout the summer with only occasional showers, and the plants suffered in consequence. Copious watering was necessary and fortunately our water supply never failed.

With our Superintendent and others I had much discussion with regard to the necessity for enriching the soil of the garden, which is so exhausted by the box hedges. Of all the plans suggested none seemed to my mind to be free from risk of injury to the boxwood, which is of first importance. In the autumn it occurred to me to write to Professor Whitney, Chief of Bureau of Soils in the Agricultural Department. At my request he sent experts to Mount Vernon, who, with Mr. Dodge, went through both gardens, and over the lawns and farm, making examinations of surface and subsoil, samples of which they carried back to their laboratories for analysis. In due time Professor Whitney sent me their report, with a copy for our Superintendent, who, in his report, will explain what has been done towards carrying out their recommendations. In time we hope to see great results. The chief difficulty here, and one which has always given trouble, is the heavy clay subsoil. Mr. Dodge was advised to have one part of the garden drained. The plan for this, which was finally adopted, was suggested by Mr. Archer, Professor Whitney agreeing that it was better than his own, as it could not by any possibility interfere with the long boxwood roots, which reach out in all directions.

You will see that the effects of the hard winter are very apparent everywhere; in fact, I think it will take two years at least before the garden recovers its usual beauty. When I was here in April the blight to vegetation was a shock to me, but I find the fresh spring growth has covered many blemishes. It is marvelous that, with the thermometer at one time ten degrees below zero, the unprotected boxwood survived. This was in a large measure due to the watchful care given it by our gardeners and employees. The roses and carnations from the greenhouses have been unusually beautiful this year, proving special care and attention given them by Mr. Whelan.

Our Superintendent duly consulted the experts on good roads in the Department of Agriculture as to the best method for repairing the road leading from the Tomb to the wharf, which is a steep grade all the way. To carry out their recommendations a larger expenditure of money was called for than any of us anticipated; therefore, the road was repaired with gravel found on the place, which both Mr. Dodge and Mr. Archer thought would prove to be entirely satisfactory. The question then

arose as to the best method for keeping down the dust on that much-used section. I did not approve of oiling, as was suggested, or of a preparation, highly recommended, called "Solway," because both seemed to me to be entirely inappropriate for use at Mount Vernon; instead, I requested Mr. Dodge to purchase a watering cart for this purpose. This necessitated laying a pipe for a short distance and establishing a hydrant by the roadside, out of sight, in order to save the horses the long extra pull up the hill to refill the cart. The flowers at the Tomb get the benefit of freer watering and the road is kept in admirable order.

I think we all felt last May that it would be a very simple matter to furnish, free of charge, individual drinking cups for the use of visitors. As at first proposed, the free dispenser was placed by the kitchen pump after Council adjourned last May. We soon found that visitors took more cups than they needed, and left them scattered over the premises. I then authorized the purchase of a slot dispenser. That the cups might be furnished free, disks the size of a penny were provided for the slot. So far this method has proved to be satisfactory.

Early in August Mr. Young informed me that our supply of Guide Books would soon be exhausted, and I wrote him to order another edition at once. This could not be furnished for the same price as the first edition, which will be explained by our Guide Book Committee.

Various interesting relics have been acquired for Mount Vernon within the past twelve months. The report of these I will leave to the Vice Regents through whom some have been presented and others purchased.

When our Corresponding Secretary reads to you the letters of most importance which I have received during the year, you will learn of other questions which have come to me for decision in the interim of Councils.

I cannot say too much in commendation of our Superintendent's wise and economical management here. I wish especially to acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr. Dodge for the efficient aid he rendered our association during the past eighteen months in our extraordinary work towards safeguarding Mount Vernon from possible desecration, also to express my own personal appreciation of his valuable services and of the unselfish kindness shown by him to me on every occasion when he found it possible to give me his assistance.

Mr. Young and Mr. Archer are competent aids, to whom the conduct of affairs here may well be entrusted when Mr. Dodge is absent from Mount Vernon.

It is also a great pleasure to realize with what fidelity and good spirit our employees attend to their various duties.

During the year President Taft, distinguished Americans and foreigners of rank have placed wreaths on the Tomb, when they have come to Mount Vernon to pay tribute to the memory of Washington.

On the 22nd of last May, when the L'Enfant Monument was unveiled at Arlington, a wreath, made of leaves from our historic boxwood and magnolia tree, was sent from Mount Vernon, in memory of the skilled French engineer whom our first President chose to lay out "The Territory of Columbia," and the "City of Washington."

Last winter an effort was made on the part of individuals who failed to appreciate our management and the rights we possess under our Charter to have it revoked by the Virginia Legislature. Having this object in view, they had a bill introduced in the House of Delegates, which was referred to the Committee on General Laws. I was at once notified of this proceeding, and wrote Mrs. Ball, authorizing her, as Vice Regent for Virginia, to have control of the management of the matter, as it was a State question. Her own report will explain what she found necessary to do. The charges were so unjust that the Committee refused to consider them, because "the Legislature of Virginia is without authority to revoke or take away the Charter under which the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association is now operating, and so long as the laws of the State or the provisions of the Charter are not violated, the Association is free from State interference." Our Charter can alone be forfeited "by abuse of its power, or non-use of its power." The Constitution of the United States protects us so long as we keep Mount Vernon sacred to the memory of Washington.

Early in 1858, when Virginia gave us our Charter, vesting the title in the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, our first Regent was busily engaged in selecting the first appointed Vice Regents, who aided her in raising the necessary purchase money for Mount Vernon. Mr. George W. Riggs, just appointed by her Treasurer of the Association, wrote to ask what qualifications were necessary for acceptable service on the Board. Her reply was this: "The qualifications needed on the part of a lady are that she shall be of a family whose social position would command the confidence of the State, and enable her to enlist the aid of persons of the widest influence. She must be in independent circumstances, as the office is not a salaried one, and attending the annual meetings would involve some expense. She must be able to command considerable leisure, as the duties will require much time until stipulated funds are raised. She should also possess liberal patriotism, energy of character, cultivation of mind, and such a combination of mental powers as will insure that she shall wisely and judiciously exercise the power of voting in Grand Council upon the future guardianship and improvement of Mount Vernon."

Miss Cunningham and that distinguished Board redeemed their first pledge when Mount Vernon was paid for fifty-three years ago. Imbued with the same patriotic spirit, their successors have faithfully kept the other pledges to provide for maintenance, security and repair, and for more than half a century have maintained the high standards that have from the beginning characterized the management of this Mecca of the Nation.

There is no record of failure on the part of any Vice Regent to fulfill these inherited obligations. In reviewing the wonderful work accomplished by the original Board, each generation since could well say, "We were then alive in our predecessors, and they in their successors do live still."

We have much satisfaction in realizing that our patriotic countrymen and the distinguished foreigners who come here to pay tribute to the memory of Washington appreciate our efforts to keep Mount Vernon as nearly as it is possible in its original state of quiet and dignified simplicity, where alone one can learn something of the domestic life of our great hero.

All who visit Mount Vernon should come "with reverent hearts, as worshippers before a shrine."

Trusting that God will guide us in our deliberations at this Council, I am

Your friend and Regent,

HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS.

## MEMORIALS

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### IN MEMORIAM.

MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND.

As we face Eternity, which we do when in thought we go with a dearly loved friend to "where the waves of time beat on the shores of Eternity," the things of time fade in the thought of the larger life beyond; we are swept out of mortal life into the divine Eternal Life, the meaning of which is God. But it is in Time, in this mortal life, that the record is made; the determining influences are at work that make for weal or woe in immortal life. To the faithful is the award given, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

In sorrowing for our beloved Honorary Regent, Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend, we sorrow not without hope that joy is her portion, for she loved and served her Master, and loved and served her fellow-men.

Mrs. Townsend, *nee* Justine Van Rensselaer, was born in Albany, New York, September 18, 1828, and she died in New York City, April 6, 1912. Reared in a Christian home of refinement and culture, and early instructed in the principles of "*noblesse oblige*," she was well fitted by her training to fill the prominent social and official life which was her portion. Travel broadened her sympathies and experiences and the aim to live up to her name, "Justine," as she has told us her father in her youth admonished her to do, made her charitable and dispassionate in her judgments of others. She was gifted with a keen sense of humor, which added charm and brilliancy to her conversation and helped her through many embarrassments and perplexities.

Mrs. Townsend was very active and devoted in her Christian and church work. Her deeply religious feeling gave the keynote to her character.

In 1873 Mrs. Townsend became the Vice Regent for New York for the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. It was under her direction that the Banquet Hall at Mount Vernon was so beautifully restored and refurnished, and she was always generous in her contributions



to other restorations. On the death of Mrs. Laughton, in 1891, Mrs. Townsend succeeded to the Regency of the Association, and many of us can witness to the enthusiastic devotion with which she administered her office. Wise in council, temperate in judgment and sympathetic, she seemed like a Mother Regent to all her associates. In emphasizing her large-heartedness I would not overlook her strength of character. True and simple herself, she could not brook anything that savored of pretension or insincerity, and she did not hesitate to rebuke any such manifestation.

Other associations have their mead of praise for Mrs. Townsend, but none can offer a higher tribute of praise than the members of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association in saying that we all loved her.

And now the "Seal of Death—God's divine seal upon the progress of the soul"—is set upon our beloved Honorary Regent, and she has gone "Where life's long shadows break in endless love."

"Angels of Jesus, Angels of light,  
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night."

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IN MEMORIAM.

MRS. REBECCA B. FLANDRAU,  
Vice Regent for Minnesota, 1889-1911.

Died December 5, 1911.

"Dear friend who did not tarry for good-bye,  
But swiftly took the heavenward path of air."

So eloquent is death that any attempt to record the noble qualities of one whom we have lost is as nothing in the presence of that immortal silence. Yet would we fain offer our humble tribute or reverent bow to the comrade who has for twenty-three years been with us, and who has given her devotion and her loving aid to our work with an untiring interest. One asks how could so frail and spiritual a form support so energetic and strong a character as was that of Mrs. Flandrau?

And yet her wise judgment, her fine intellect, her breadth of mind, her store of information, her unfailing vitality were most remarkable.

She possessed, as well, an indefinable charm and grace and an attraction which was felt by all, and served to gather about her much of love and sympathy.

Above all and most evident was the simplicity of her character and her unselfish nature, her entire truthfulness and her loyalty.

Truly hers was the rare combination of mind and heart that forms the perfect woman.

As was her gentle life such was her passing away. Chatting with one of her family, she remarked that she "felt a little tired" and went to her sofa, but ere her head reached her pillow she had taken the heavenward path.

"God keep her in His safe, sure Paradise,  
And let us find her welcome there."

Resolution on the death of Mrs. Barnes, Vice Regent for the District of Columbia:

*Resolved*, That in the death of Mrs. Mary T. Barnes, Vice Regent for the District of Columbia, this association has sustained the loss of one of its oldest members, and of one who in the early days of stress was most valuable and active in her assistance. Some of the Washington relics were brought to Mount Vernon by Mrs. Barnes and the room assigned to the District of Columbia was furnished by her. She was one of the last Vice Regents appointed by Miss Cunningham, in 1873. Though of late years her health forbade her attending Council, she never lost her interest in the work of caring for Mount Vernon nor her place in the hearts of those with whom she was associated.

## STATE REPORTS

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### ALABAMA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Alabama has little to report, except the distribution of our literature, talks made before schools, and the donation of an old Mount Vernon flag to a schoolhouse in one of our old Revolutionary towns.

At the request of one of our city editors, an article was written and accepted explaining the character and scope of the work of the Association.

The kindly and cordial response of our Congressional representatives when appealed to for indorsement and aid was most gratifying, and indicates a more intelligent and appreciative attitude towards our work than ever before.

Respectfully submitted,

LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON,

Vice Regent for Alabama.

### CONNECTICUT STATE REPORT.

I regret that illness has forbidden any effort for work for Mount Vernon, except the usual distribution of reports. I have sent to our Assistant Superintendent's charge a number of copies of minutes and reports of past Councils that are much in demand for the files required for the newly appointed Vice Regents.

By order of the Regent that a second appeal should be made to the Senators and members of Congress for this association in the protection of Mount Vernon, I wrote our representatives begging for their interest in the bill to place the Belvoir tract in the custody of the War Department. I received in answer cordial assurance of their support.

Respectfully submitted,

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON,

Vice Regent for Connecticut.

### CALIFORNIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for California regrets being absent from Council this year and encloses a cheque for \$200.00 to be used as the Regent sees proper.

Respectfully submitted,

PHOEBE A. HEARST,

Vice Regent for California.

### **DELAWARE STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Delaware reports the distribution of the Mount Vernon Association reports for 1911 in her State, and at the request of the Regent wrote the necessary letters about the Belvoir tract.

Respectfully submitted,

VICTORINE E. FOSTER,

Vice Regent for Delaware.

### **GEORGIA STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Georgia unites with all our association in sorrow for the death of our beloved Honorary Regent, Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend, who for thirty-three years served Mount Vernon so skillfully and faithfully. Her unusual ability, her loyalty, her exquisite refinement and tact, gave her power of rare quality in the high positions she held. She has left an example for us to follow worthy of our respect, admiration and love.

Letters to the Georgia Senators and representatives were written, asking their assistance in having the Belvoir tract transferred to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of War, and received courteous replies, promising assistance.

Your Vice Regent has sent a small antique divan, to be placed in Mrs. Washington's sitting-room, in place of the sofa removed; also oleander plants for the greenhouse.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER,

Vice Regent for Georgia.

### **ILLINOIS STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent sent five reports of Council, 1911, including one to the Governor of the State, and the Chicago Historical Society.

On February 22d a children's club contributed \$23 to the Vice Regent and Mrs. J. Howland Thompson sent \$50 in March for vines and shrubs, making \$73 contributed in Chicago in 1911.

The Vice Regent reports the expenditure contributed in the year 1909 for Grounds Committee \$149.47. The expenditure was \$132.10, leaving a balance of \$17.37.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY T. LEITER,

Vice Regent for Illinois.

### KENTUCKY STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Kentucky reports a gift of twenty-five dollars for the Kentucky room at Mount Vernon from the Sons of the American Revolution of Louisville, Kentucky.

Also from Mrs. Simon Bolivar Buckner, of Kentucky, the original letter addressed to Congress by her grandmother, Mrs. Bassett, when, as owner of the Washington Family Bible, she desired to sell it to the Nation. Mrs. Buckner asks that this letter be placed with the Bible, now at Mount Vernon.

Also some photographs sent by Mr. John Anderson, of Lambertsville, New Jersey, being copies taken from daguerreotype copies of portraits of General and Mrs. Washington, of which George W. P. Custis, writing from Arlington House, July 7, 1848, says: "The daguerreotype likenesses of General and Mrs. Washington, taken by Mr. John S. Grubb, of Alexandria, are accurate copies of the original paintings, now in my possession. That of the Chief, which is a very fine likeness, was taken in 1796, by Sharpless, and the miniature of Mrs. Washington, which has been pronounced by some of the best artists as a most exquisite production, is by Robinson, 1790." (Signed, George W. P. Custis.) Other photographs are of Washington's headquarters at Lambertsville, N. J., and of his fishing tackle, owned by the family of that place.

I also report the opportunity given the Association to purchase a bookcase devised in the Will of Mary Ball Washington to her grandson, Fielding Lewis, and from him, in direct descent, becoming the property of John C. Lewis, of Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Lewis generously offered this valuable relic to Mount Vernon at one-half the estimated price. The proof of its genuineness being absolutely satisfactory to the Committee on Investigation of Relics, Council accepted Mr. Lewis' offer, with thanks for his generosity, and the bookcase is now the property of Mount Vernon.

Kentucky Senators and representatives in Congress responded promptly and favorably to our appeal for aid in the matter of the Belvoir estate.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGARETTA BARRET,

Vice Regent for Kentucky.

### MAINE STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Maine reports that in response to a request from the Regent she wrote to the Senator from her district, and received

from him a most courteous letter, saying we might rest assured he would not endorse any measure detrimental to Mount Vernon.

She also has distributed postal cards.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE H. RICHARDS,

Vice Regent for Maine.

### MARYLAND STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Maryland collected three hundred dollars in her State as a contribution towards the purchase of the original grant of Mount Vernon from Lord Culpeper to John Washington and Nicholas Spencer. One thousand dollars was needed to purchase this interesting document. California and Michigan gave five hundred dollars and two hundred dollars, respectively. The ready response to the appeal and interest shown by the subscribers were most gratifying and made an agreeable experience of what is usually an unpleasant task.

The Vice Regent was again obliged to enlist the interest of members of Congress from Maryland in urging the transfer of Belvoir to the jurisdiction of the War Department. Courteous replies were received from all.

Miss Sharpe presented two photographs of Woodlawn before any restorations or additions were made for the Nellie Custis room. These have been suitably framed and hung.

New rag carpet has been provided for the room, which has been freshened with paint and calcimine and looks very attractive.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS,

Vice Regent for Maryland.

### MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Massachusetts is glad to report that the interest in Mount Vernon is undiminished in her State, and that there is an ardent desire to safeguard its surroundings in every way, and to strengthen the hands of the Association.

Personally she has added a few books to the library, the same as those owned by Washington.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE M. LONGFELLOW,

Vice Regent for Massachusetts.

### **MICHIGAN STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Michigan reports a contribution of \$325.00 made by the Detroit Mount Vernon Society. Seventy-five dollars of this amount will reimburse the Association for the advance made to the Vice Regent last year to meet the last payment upon the Mary Ball Washington chair. Two hundred dollars is pledged for a contribution for the purchase of the original grant of 5,000 acres made by Lord Culpeper to John Washington and Nicholas Spencer. The remainder of the amount contributed by the Detroit Society will be expended as opportunity occurs for securing some valuable relic.

The Mount Vernon Auxiliary Society of Detroit has had a successful year in carrying out an interesting program, and in its generous contribution to the Vice Regent for her work at Mount Vernon. It is due to this auxiliary society that the Vice Regent has never been obliged to come single-handed to the Councils. Mrs. Sullivan, of New York, after an enjoyable visit to Mount Vernon, contributed five dollars for the Vice Regent's work.

In response to the Regent's request, the Vice Regent wrote to the Senators from Michigan, asking for their favorable consideration of the bill before Congress to use the Belvoir property as a mounted military training school. She received very courteous replies, with promises to aid the measures.

The Vice Regent distributed three dozen copies of the reports.

She has given three talks upon Mount Vernon, one before a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the other two before the Detroit Society.

Respectfully submitted,

**ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE,**

Vice Regent for Michigan.

### **MISSOURI STATE REPORT.**

Your Vice Regent reports that with the kind permission of the Regent, after adjournment of last Council, she was able to add 100 feet to the wall by the North Lodge Gate.

A lecture on Mount Vernon, with very interesting stereopticon views, was given a number of times by a friend of the Vice Regent and aroused much interest.

Respectfully submitted,

**CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM.**

Vice Regent for Missouri.

### MISSISSIPPI STATE REPORT.

I have nothing of real interest to report, except the prospect of obtaining the shingles required for recovering the Mansion. I made repeated efforts to find a reliable party to furnish these and hope that my latest effort may prove successful.

The prizes for the best essay on the "Home of Washington" were offered again to the same schools, but only two accepted—the one at Yazoo City and at Greenville. It appears that other patriotic organizations were already giving prizes for essays on historical subjects so that others on similar topics could not be undertaken.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES JONES RICKS,

Vice Regent for Mississippi.

### NEW JERSEY STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for New Jersey regrets exceedingly that she cannot be present at the meeting of Council this year.

She has nothing to report from her State but the gift of ten dollars (\$10) from the Boudenot Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, of Elizabeth, N. J. This chapter has always taken a great interest in Mount Vernon and frequently sends donations.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN F. CONOVER,

Vice Regent for New Jersey.

### NEW YORK STATE REPORT.

As successor to our late Regent, I feel that words are impossible to express my sense of indebtedness to her for having appointed me to be Vice Regent for New York; my attachment to her was very great; her loss will always be fresh with me; her devotion and tact a great example.

A gift from Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan of a decanter used at Mount Vernon by General George Washington, passed to Bushrod C. Washington in 1847, is reported.

Also, a gift from Mr. Clarence Mackay of a map, the combat of Gloucester, the 25th of November, 1777, the American forces being commanded by Lafayette, and the English by Lord Cornwallis.

Also, a gift of a pin cushion by the daughters of Mr. John V. L. Pruym, of Albany (Mrs. W. G. Rice, and Mrs. Hamlin), embroidered



at Mount Vernon by Martha Washington, "a gift to my father by John Martin, of Clifton, Fairfax County, Virginia."

At the request of our Regent I wrote to our representatives in Congress and had most interested answers.

Respectfully submitted,

AMY TOWNSEND,  
Vice Regent for New York.

### NORTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.

Copies of the report of our last Council were sent to the State and other public and school libraries. Copies of the history of Miss Cunningham's work for Mount Vernon were distributed. Guide Books and Post Cards have been a gratification, sometimes to people of mature years, as well as to those younger, and also to children.

Our Senators indicated by letters their favorable support of Senator Martin's bill in the Senate for Mount Vernon's protection.

To the senior classes of each of the three colleges for girls in Raleigh—St. Mary's, Peace Institute, and Meredith—some of our historic ivy was sent for planting on their respective class days last spring. Expressions of appreciation were made not only by the young lady students, but also by their teachers.

North Carolina asks the Committee on Investigation of Relics to accept fifty dollars to be used according to their discretion.

Respectfully submitted,

JULIA M. ANDREWS,  
Vice Regent for North Carolina.

### OHIO STATE REPORT.

Owing to continued ill health the Vice Regent for Ohio has been unable to do anything for Mount Vernon, except distribute the reports to colleges and universities throughout the State, and at the request of the Regent she has also written to the two United States Senators from her State enlisting their interest in regard to the proposed disposition of Belvoir.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE D. IRWIN,  
Vice Regent for Ohio.

### OREGON STATE REPORT.

Owing to the absence, or to committee work of other importance by members of the Library Committee, I have, with Mr. Young's assistance, prepared a new catalogue, including books added during the last few years, and am now arranging it according to cases.

I have also, at the request of the Regent, written and telegraphed to both Senators from Oregon, asking them to use their influence to support the bill presented by Senator Martin, of Virginia, giving the Secretary of War jurisdiction over the Belvoir tract, and in particular to Senator Chamberlain, of the Committee on Military Affairs, asking his kind offices in favoring the transfer of the Mounted Service School to that tract. Both sent prompt and favorable replies, for which I sent my personal thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY F. FAILING,

Vice Regent for Oregon.

### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Pennsylvania reports the distribution of a large number of copies of the Memorial to Miss Cunningham.

At the request of the Regent she inspected the Lafayette collection of Washington Relics, and after consultation with the Vice Regent for New York, decided it would be unwise to purchase.

The Pennsylvania room, to be occupied in the future, as always in the past, by the Regent, has had the bed curtains replaced by new ones, and linen, etc., supplied.

In the winter of 1912 the Vice Regent of Pennsylvania had the assurance of the two Senators of her State that they would look after Mount Vernon's interests in the Senate of the United States.

Respectfully submitted,

ELLEN WALN HARRISON,

Vice Regent for Pennsylvania.

### RHODE ISLAND STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Rhode Island has to report replacing in school gardens such Mount Vernon oaks as had died during the winter.

Appeals were made to the Rhode Island Senators to help in supporting the amendment preserving Mount Vernon from the penal settlement at Belvoir.

Mount Vernon literature was distributed as usual.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNE C. A. BROWN,

Vice Regent for Rhode Island.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for South Carolina has no active work to report.

Letters and telegrams were sent to Senators and Congressmen, asking their support to the measures for the protection of the Mount Vernon property.

Memorials and reports of the Association were distributed.

Respectfully submitted,

**ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE,**

Vice Regent for South Carolina.

### **TENNESSEE STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for Tennessee has to report the distribution of Mount Vernon literature to the Historical Society, the libraries and colleges throughout the State.

In response to a letter from the Regent, she wrote to the chairman of the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate to ask his influence in favor of moving the Mounted Service Riding School from Fort Riley, Kansas, to Belvoir, Virginia. A most courteous reply was received promising support in all pertaining to Mount Vernon interests.

The Vice Regent has begun the formation of a Mount Vernon auxiliary society throughout the State.

Respectfully submitted,

**MARY YEATMAN WEBB,**

Vice Regent for Tennessee.

### **TEXAS STATE REPORT.**

It is with great pleasure that the Vice Regent for Texas reports that 100 feet has been added to the brick wall which Texas began, but had not finished. This work was done by the Vice Regent for Missouri.

In the spring oleanders were sent to be planted in the garden.

The Texas Senators responded in a most cordial manner to the appeal made to them to aid the Mount Vernon Association in preserving from desecration the home of Washington.

Efforts were made to secure shingles suitable for use on the Mansion, and a favorable bid made, which it is hoped may meet with the approval of Council.

Respectfully submitted,

**FRANCES C. MAXEY,**

Vice Regent for Texas.

### VERMONT STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Vermont reports that she wrote to the Vermont Senators, at the request of the Regent, asking their interest in regard to the bill for the transfer of the Belvoir site to the War Department for use as a school of equitation, etc. The Senators wrote that they would be glad to do all they could to protect Mount Vernon.

Reports were distributed to libraries in Vermont, and a few sets of Mount Vernon postal cards were given to some of the schools in Windsor.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY EVARTS,  
Vice Regent for Vermont.

### VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.

The Vice Regent for Virginia has distributed many reports in her State, and has placed the delightful book written by Dr. Thomas Nelson Page in the State Library, and at the Virginia Historical Society rooms, and in the Rosemary Public Library.

Near to the close of the late session of the Virginia Legislature non-residents of the State presented an appeal asking the abolishment of the entrance fee to Mount Vernon. This appeal was referred to a committee. Unfounded statements demanded refutation and the Vice Regent secured legal counsel to represent this association.

The former Attorney General of Virginia, Hon. William A. Anderson, of our Advisory Committee, published a pamphlet defining the legal position of our association.

The antifee matter was dropped in committee and the bill was not reported in the House.

It remains for the Regent to give details to Council.

The Vice Regent has published a small booklet for general distribution in Virginia. It contains needed information concerning the work accomplished by the Association, and also the story of how the women of the Nation purchased Washington's Home.

She has collected historical data, fathered from English authorities concerning Washington's maternal ancestry, which she will embody in a published sketch.

The Vice Regent for Virginia here puts on record her great personal loss in the passing away of our dearly beloved Honorary Regent, Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend. She was a great and noble woman, wise, true, strong, and a tender loving friend. God never made woman on a lovelier plan. Her memory cannot fade.

Respectfully submitted,

EMMA R. BALL,  
Vice Regent for Virginia.

### **WEST VIRGINIA STATE REPORT.**

The Vice Regent for West Virginia has to report the usual distribution of reports and some copies of the Life of Ann Pamela Cunningham.

She is also glad to report the hearty support on the part of the West Virginia Senators of all measures in the Congress of the United States for the protection of Mount Vernon.

Respectfully submitted,

**SARAH PENDLETON VAN RENSSELAER,**

Vice Regent for West Virginia.

### **WASHINGTON STATE REPORT.**

Owing to absence from home all winter, the Vice Regent for Washington has but little to report.

Letters and telegrams were sent as requested by the Regent to Senators and Congressmen, who are attending strictly to everything pertaining to Mount Vernon.

The reports of 1911 were distributed as usual to libraries, schools and individuals.

Respectfully submitted,

**ELIZA F. LEARY,**

Vice Regent for Washington.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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*To the Regent and Vice Regents of the*

*Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.*

LADIES: This, my annual report for the fiscal year, ending April 30, 1912, is respectfully submitted. It treats of a period fraught with much activity, anxiety and distress.

Thrice was the Mount Vernon flag lowered as a symbol of mourning for members of the Association whose life-long work for the cause ended with death. Mrs. Flandrau, Vice Regent for Minnesota; Mrs. Barnes, Vice Regent for the District of Columbia, and Mrs. Townsend, the Honorary Regent, passed away in the order named. These sad occurrences cast over us a gloom of unusual affliction. Floral tributes were sent and the flag remained at half mast until the final obsequies. It is with a feeling of great personal sadness that I reflect upon the long list (now numbering thirty) of those now gone to their rest since the beginning of my service with the Association.

### TOMB.

Reverential tributes to the memory of Washington were evidenced by the following long list of visitors who asked the privilege of placing wreaths or other handsome floral pieces in the Tomb:

May 12, 1911—Madam Ambrozovics, Budapest, Hungary.

May 24, 1911—The Detroit Mount Vernon Society.

May 24, 1911—The John Hay Republican Association, Allentown, Pa.

May 27, 1911—The International Union for Protection of Patents.

May 30, 1911—Decoration Day. Wreath from the White House.

July 4, 1911—The West Street School of Holyoke, Mass.

July 8, 1911—Roman Catholic Teachers of the U. S. and Canada.

Aug. 6, 1911—Admiral Togo, with the Japanese Ambassador and suite.

Sept. 28, 1911—The Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm.

Sept. 29, 1911—The Independent Order of Daughters of St. George.

Sept. 30, 1911—Admiral Goni, of the Chilian Navy.

Oct. 6, 1911—The Arion Society of Washington, D. C.

Oct. 6, 1911—The National German-American Alliance.

Oct. 6, 1911—Ladies of the South Carolina delegation, National German-American Alliance.

Oct. 18, 1911—The John Hay Republican Association, Allentown, Pa.  
 Nov. 16, 1911—The Junior Order of American Mechanics.  
 Dec. 14, 1911—Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22.  
 Dec. 14, 1911—Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4.  
 Dec. 14, 1911—Washington Lodge, No. 21 (of New York).  
 Feb. 12, 1912—The Young Australian League (40 boys).  
 Feb. 22, 1912—The President of the United States.  
 Feb. 22, 1912.—The George Washington Masonic Memorial Society.  
 Feb. 22, 1912—The Washington Birthday Association.  
 April 20, 1912—Children of the American Revolution.  
 April 29, 1912—M. Hanotaux and other distinguished French Delegates to the Champlain celebration.

### BELVOIR.

The protection of Mount Vernon against the possible menace of "undesirable neighbors," while seemingly accomplished a year ago, threatened again when it was learned last autumn that Congress would be asked to reverse its former action with respect to the proposed criminal reformatory at Belvoir.

Again it became necessary to importune our friends at the Capitol to legislate against such a movement. As a result the Senate voted an amendment to the Military Appropriation bill, transferring the jurisdiction of the Belvoir tract to the War Department.

Last November I had the honor of piloting the Secretary of War, the Chief of Staff, and other distinguished officers on a visit of inspection of Belvoir to determine its availability for army purposes.

The final action of Congress upon this measure is awaited with keen interest.

### ANTIFEE CRUSADE.

A cause of much vexation was the attempt on the part of the so-called Antifee Association to influence the Legislature of Virginia against us.

The attack was of course unwarrantable, but directed so suddenly and unscrupulously as to impress in its favor many men in the Legislature who had not thoroughly studied the situation. A hurry call by the Vice Regent for Virginia took me to Richmond with literature and data which was needed to forestall the movement.

The Regent has explained how the affair terminated with the defeat of our accusers. It will not be surprising that further annoying efforts will be made by these people, but the status of your organization is impregnable.

Added to these disturbing episodes was a year of remarkable extremes: An unusually long and severe drought last summer, which

practically ruined the crops; this followed by electric storms, which blasted many of our trees, and finally a winter which, though not beginning in force until after Christmas, was more disastrous to plant life than for any year on record. Snow and ice prevailed until well along in March. These unfavorable conditions of weather naturally affected travel and reduced our income.

The Macalaster suspended its daily trips on December 23 and did not resume until the 18th of March.

There was no interruption of the trolley service.

Our books show a total of 113,494 visitors during the twelvemonth.

### INSTRUCTIONS.

The instructions handed me at last Council guided my endeavors, and, with the exceptions noted, were faithfully followed.

### CARRIAGE ROADS.

Whereas my recommendation that the most effectual remedy for the worn and dusty stretch of road between the Tomb and wharf would be a resurfacing of crushed stone, compacted with oil, it was later decided, because of the expense and to avoid the appearance of so modern a method, to cover with clay-gravel.

This material was obtained on the estate, and to allay dust a watering cart was purchased by the direction of the Regent. Facilities for supplying the water required for sprinkling the lower road, as well as for tub plants near the Tomb, we arranged by laying a branch pipe from the service main at the stable.

It was found necessary to use this gravel also to grade at several points between the Mansion and West Lodge Gate.

### PAVEMENTS.

The attractions of the Spinning Room for visitors caused the constant wearing away of the sodded space in front of the door. The only remedy was to replace the sod with brick, and the pavement from the Watch Room to the Spinning House Gate was, at the same time, relaid. At the doorways on the north side of the Quarters the Regent approved substituting bricks for the stones my instructions called for. Where frost action, followed by heavy rains in March, damaged some of the pavements, corrections were made.

### BUTLER HOUSE WALL.

The curved brick wall adjoining the Butler's House had, from years of frost action, been gradually forced out of plumb. It was necessary



to take it all down, for a distance of fifty feet. In order that the original (Washington) bricks might be used again in the restoration, extra care was given the handling and cleaning of them. In preparing the foundation, reinforced concrete was used to a depth of two feet underground, and the superstructure was additionally strengthened by tie rods at intervals of two feet to prevent any tendency of outward pressure ever cracking the wall.

The ivy which had covered the north side of this wall was temporarily moved and subsequently replanted successfully.

### MANSION REPAIRS.

As I reported at last Council, several of the rooms in the Mansion required attention, and for this I had to employ an expert who could give his entire time thereto. During February and March, when there were few visitors, the work was accomplished.

The River Room was the first one treated. The mantel and part of the cornice had become loosened, and the walls and ceiling were disfigured by cracks. Following the corrections of these defects the room was freshly calcimined and painted. The Vice Regent for Pennsylvania directed me to renew the bed drapery and mattress and supply additional linen for this room.

Next to receive attention was the Green Room. You will remember that for many years the wood trimming there was painted green and the walls calcimined in buff. In a hidden angle of the cornice we found a fragment of light green wall paper, proving that to have been the original color and the reason for so naming the room. I, therefore, had the walls tinted to match this color; also, our investigation determining the fact that the woodwork was originally white, it has been so restored.

In the "Nellie Custis Room" the old calcimine had begun to flake off. This had all to be removed and the walls pointed and sized before a finish coat could be applied. The woodwork was repainted; also the fireplace. The old flooring was oiled as a preservative to the wood and to better its appearance.

On the third floor the "Spare Room" (furnished by Florida) being used so much as a passageway, the walls and woodwork were more or less discolored. Here, too, essential repairs were made.

The walls of the narrow stairways leading to the attic were continually being soiled by the passing of visitors. Calcimine or paper there is quickly disfigured. To obviate the difficulty as far as possible I had these surfaces so painted that stains may be removed by washing.

In the second floor hallways the "wear and tear" of the wall paper was corrected by patching. This we frequently have to do.

The work in the Music Room was more difficult because of defective plastering. Wherever loosened from the lathing it had to be taken off and renewed. The hiding of cracks and joints was cleverly done and the repainted surfaces were carefully stippled as before.

The Parlor ceiling was painted, the paneled walls repaired where necessary and the original colors accurately matched.

In the Sitting Room and main hall, where the shrinkage of the paneling was in evidence, repointing was about all required.

A rotted timber under the Library porch, also a portion of the flooring, were replaced by new material. Leaks in the tin roof of this porch were stopped and the whole roof painted.

Several of the worst worn places in the paving of the East Portico were carefully patched with cement.

Proper brushes were provided for removing dust from the Mansion shutters and a superior grade of rubber matting was secured as protection for the floors and stairs.

#### REPAIRS OF BUILDINGS.

The gatekeeper's room at the North Lodge Gate, and the watchroom used by the guards, required repairs of plaster and calcimining.

Improvement to the two small dormitories over the Spinning Room was effected by increasing to full height the frame partitions, providing adjustable transoms over the doors and changing the window sash to swing instead of raise. Creosote was applied to the Spinning implements to stop dry rot. The steps at the entrance door were strengthened.

In the Palm House the unsatisfactory wooden stages were replaced by permanent reinforced concrete, moulded over pipe and wire frames in sections to admit of their being moved if required. The interior brick walls were whitewashed.

Door frames, roof ribs and the supporting plate of the Carnation House were renewed and broken glass replaced.

The stages and other woodwork of the Rose House had attention

The exterior of each of the glasshouses was painted and ventilators readjusted.

Smaller mesh copper netting was procured to take the place of worn-out window screens of various buildings.

Servants' rooms were disinfected.

The shingle roofs of Smoke House, Carpenter Shop, Wash Room, etc., were repainted.

Flooring in the Carpenter Shop and the passage way at entrance gate was patched.

Minor repairs were required for cellar doors, door steps, gates, fences, bridges, power pump, drains, gutters, etc.

The interiors of stables were whitewashed and kept as clean as possible, and a vigorous crusade waged against rats.

#### IMPLEMENT SHED.

Extension of sheds for housing wagons and implements was accomplished by using the available material of the condemned cow barn.

The reroofing of the older sheds had to be postponed.

#### HEATING SYSTEM.

In June the grate bars and shaking mechanism of the heating plant were removed (as usual) and all the bearings liberally coated with a mixture of oil and graphite as a rust preventative. On making a preliminary test before starting fires in the autumn, one of the boilers (which has been in use twelve years without repair) developed weariness in three of the castings. New parts were immediately ordered, and after the difficult task of taking down and reassembling the sections was accomplished, both the boilers and the adjacent water mains were recovered with patent insulating material.

#### TOMB REPAIRS.

Surface cracks of the cement arch covering the inner vault were filled with a plastic composition to allow for contraction and expansion. A few spots were patched in the hidden corners of the vestibule ceiling where the plaster had loosened contact. The marble sarcophagi and memorial shafts were cleaned and one of the iron gates readjusted to open with less friction. Young growth of weeds and bushes within the brick enclosure were removed.

Woven wire netting was attached to the inside of the iron fence enclosing the Old Tomb, to prevent visitors reaching through and plucking the myrtle.

The iron work at both tombs was repainted.

#### BOUNDARY WALL.

Through the kindness of the Vice Regent for Missouri, who defrayed the expense of it, an addition of 100 feet now lengthens the north boundary wall, which was begun in 1905 by the Vice Regent for Texas.

The ivy we planted along this new portion made a fair start, but last winter was too much for it.

### GARDENS AND GROUNDS.

It is lamentable, indeed, to note how sadly the hedges, vines and ornamental shrubs were affected by the killing frost we experienced. We have no record of any previous occurrence of similar severity. That the ivy was defoliated and tender shrubbery blighted was scarcely to be wondered at, but our surprise was indeed great when the venerable boxwood hedges failed. We were most particular, during every snow fall, to prevent such accumulation of weight as might cause damage, and our guards frequently had to take turns at night in brushing the snow from these relics of Washington's planting.

Of course, we may reasonably expect that time will heal these defects, now so glaring, but the recovery will be slow.

The historic roses planted by Washington and named by him, one for his mother, and one for Nellie Custis, have been killed to the ground, not, however, for the first time. Their vigorous rootage will quickly force an attractive growth.

The young hollies, azaleas, accubas, etc., which were set out a little over a year ago, have (with few exceptions) escaped injury and are thriving. Plants of box (propagated from the old hedge cuttings) were placed along the curved walk at the end of the garden to mark, at least, where the original hedge had once flourished.

The Regent also directed us to remove several spireas and other shrubs which had outgrown their proper room in the garden. The roots of these were separated and relegated temporarily to the propagating lot. This spring we have received and added to the attractions of the garden oleanders sent by the Vice Regents for Georgia and Texas, and *Cristata* by the Vice Regent for Delaware.

Investigations to determine the character of our soil, (both of gardens and farm,) were arranged for by the Regent. Experts detailed by the Chief of the Bureau of Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture, came last autumn, and, by boring in many localities, took samples of surface loam and underlying strata for analysis. Their verdict was that lime was needed to correct acidity and that freer drainage of certain portions of the flower garden was essential. They advised our using crushed limestone, rather than burned or slack lime, in order to effect gradual and more lasting action.

The Regent, after due consideration, directed us to proceed as advised. After difficulties and delays we succeeded in procuring the desired material. The samples offered were submitted to the Agricultural Department for analysis, and, it being decided which was best, we secured the necessary quantity and had it spaded thoroughly into the flower beds.

Test borings indicated where better drainage was required, to secure which it was only necessary to probe the stratum of water-resisting clay and establish proper gravel vents into the porous substratum.

While no special recommendations were made by the experts respecting the kitchen garden soil, they approved our method of incorporating sand and plowing under leaves to lighten the stiff clay.

We protected the ancient fig bushes against frost by flattening and tying the branches and covering them deeply with leaves.

The wall fruits and grape vines were pruned as usual.

Strawberries stood the winter well and now promise much fruit.

Early spring planting was out of the question, because of continued wet weather, but the present showing is reasonably fair.

The excess of vegetables and fruit last summer was canned for winter use.

Our attention to lawns and grounds generally keeps laborers constantly busy. Though many worn places in the turf have been re-sodded, there is more to be done in that respect than we have found proper sod for.

Sufficient myrtle was found to cover bare ground under the evergreens near the Mansion.

In borders back of the Quarters, where grass would not flourish, cuttings of ivy were embedded and in time should make a handsome effect there.

#### COBBLESTONE GUTTERS.

My proposal to reconstruct a portion of the gutter bordering the carriage road to the wharf had to be deferred, owing to the pressure of more important work. At the stable watering tub a space was excavated and a cobblestone pavement laid in cement as an essential permanent improvement.

#### TREES.

Several trees in the deer park and at other remote points were killed or injured by lightning last summer and had to be taken out.

A disfiguring tree or two were removed from near the summer-house, also some volunteers in the flower garden where they endangered the box hedge.

Vistas in the park, and the one opening a view to the West Lodge Gate, were benefited by cutting away the encroaching branches. The willows along the sea wall were trimmed to make them less top-heavy and to better the general effect.

A number of young persimmon trees were set out in the deer park, and small cedars transplanted to fill vacancies in the evergreen screens.

Two Japanese maples were removed from the borders of the bowling green, as ordered, and shipped to the Vice Regent for Georgia. Sixty seedling oaks were sent to Providence, Rhode Island, to replace a former unsuccessful shipment. Owing to the unusually long drought of last summer our attempt at reforesting one of the distant fields proved a failure.

All of the work on trees was accomplished by our regular laborers except in a few instances where the climbing was particularly hazardous, when experts were employed.

Efforts were made to propagate from seeds and cuttings of trees planted by Washington, but the season was most unfavorable and we must continue the experiment.

#### FARM.

Our farming operations last season were handicapped by the severe drought of June, July and August. As a result, the crops were all short of the normal yield.

From 13 acres of oats we threshed but 255 bushels. From a like area in grass 14 tons of hay were secured. We made 381 bushels of corn from 9 acres. In preparation for the latter crop the reclaimed meadow was thoroughly limed and cultivated.

The oat stubble (13 acres) was plowed and seeded to rye for turning under again this spring. Four acres of crimson clover sown in September now shows for itself.

During the winter, when hauling was possible, manure from the compost heap, near the river, was used for the kitchen garden, portions of the lawn, and for top dressing the grass lots.

To better the uncared-for appearance of the eighteen-acre field set aside for reforesting, the Regent authorized me to plow it and apply a grass mixture suitable to conditions there. This has been done.

By advice of experts from the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, an experiment has been made this spring to improve our soil by using slag, a by-product of iron foundries. This ingredient is rich in lime and phosphoric acid.

Six tons of Carnegie slag was provided gratis by the Department and one and a half tons of Thomas slag we bought. On three acres sown in oats the experiment was made as follows: Carnegie slag on one-third of the lot, Thomas slag on another, while the intervening third remains bare of improvement. Comparison of results should determine the relative merits of treatment.

When weather conditions were unfavorable for farming, useful work was accomplished by grading the borders of the meadows where drain tiles had been laid, and by cutting weeds and sprouts along the fence lines of the estate.

We are indebted to the Chairman of the Farm Committee, the Vice Regent for California, for a much-needed broad-tire wagon, a cart and a surrey. Our teams are constantly engaged on the various branches of work in progress. One of the Kentucky mules was lamed for several weeks. When the steamboat was not running and the coach service, in consequence, suspended, the big Percherons were employed hauling ice, coal, wood, manure, etc.

The live stock consists of two horses, two mules and eleven deer, and they consume about all we raise on the farm.

In the storage loft of the deer park shelter house wire netting was used to protect the grain from depredations by squirrels.

When, as it frequently happened, the ground was covered with deep snow, quantities of wild honeysuckle was cut and fed to the deer.

#### SANITARY DRINKING CUPS.

Soon after last Council the appliance for free distribution of individual drinking cups was installed. After several weeks' test of the device it was found that the rapid exhaustion of our supply of cups was due to visitors taking away dozens at a time as souvenirs. The privilege was so abused that the Regent approved substituting a cup vendor, which is a "slot machine." Metal disks, free to all on application, are provided, so that but one cup at a time is ejected by the vendor. Many persons deem it more convenient to use pennies rather than ask for the metal disks. As a result the accumulations from this source have been considerable.

#### GUIDE BOOKS.

The exhaustion last summer of the supply of Guide Books necessitated the printing of an additional lot to last until the new and revised edition can be arranged for.

#### DR. PAGE'S BOOK.

A second edition of Dr. Page's book on Mount Vernon was authorized by Council to be published in somewhat cheaper form than the first. These books have been received, but not yet placed on sale.

#### WASHINGTON'S DIARIES.

In addition to the 1478 type-written pages already copied of the Washington diaries at the Library of Congress, I purchased two printed publications and am having them similarly copied to complete the volumes desired for our files.

#### WASHINGTON'S LETTERS.

All of our collection of Washington's letters, to the number of 19, were entrusted to Mr. William Berwick, of the Library of Congress,

the noted expert in the art of restoring and protecting fragile manuscripts. It is only necessary to critically examine these valued autographs of Washington, (which were promptly repaired and returned,) to realize the painstaking success achieved by Mr. Berwick. His restoration of the tattered and defaced original Will of George Washington, (which is preserved at Fairfax Court House,) was very remarkable.

Mr. Berwick has kindly presented photographs showing portions of Washington's Will before and after his work upon it.

#### WASHINGTON'S CANE.

The Washington cane presented to Hon. Edward Everett by the Association in 1858, and the head and ferrule of which was given us last year by Mrs. Archibald Hopkins, granddaughter of Mr. Everett, I have had remounted in its original form—a "walking staff."

#### GIFTS.

By request of the Vice Regent for Rhode Island, the sprig of English yew she brought from Great Brington, Northamptonshire, was framed and hung in the Banquet Hall under the picture of the ancient Washington church.

Through the late Vice Regent for the District of Columbia was received a quaint picture of the Old Tomb, painted in 1814.

The Vice Regent for New York obtained a cut-glass decanter, (formerly owned by Washington,) which had been purchased by Mr. J. P. Morgan from Rev. H. E. Spears, of Danville, Kentucky.

She also sent a map of the battlefield of Gloucester, Delaware (1777), obtained at the recent sale of the Lafayette collection by Mr. Clarence H. Mackay, of New York.

The Polish National Alliance offers a book commemorative of the Polish heroes who took part in the War of the Revolution.

The Vice Regent for California repeated her Christmas presents to the employees.

Cash donations from Mr. Daniel Edgar, of New York (fifty dollars), and Mr. Benjamin F. Vaughan, of Providence, Rhode Island (ten dollars), were credited temporarily to the Contingent Fund.

#### RELIC PURCHASED.

Four volumes of Burns' poems, which had belonged to Washington's adopted daughter, were purchased from Mrs. C. B. Trierson, of Grand Cane, Louisiana.

Professor Ward has sent a box containing certain Mount Vernon literature and other papers accumulated by the late Vice Regent for Kansas.



## EMPLOYEES.

There were no changes in the list of employees the past year. All have been well and have faithfully performed their duties.

## RECOMMENDATIONS.

*Wharf.* The most important work which is now imperative is the repair of the steamboat wharf. The timber walls of the approach have rotted and the heavy ice last winter broke and dislodged some of the main supports of the forward cribbing. Our engineer, Mr. Archer, has, after careful study of the situation and consultation with experts, prepared a plan of improvement which, while very expensive, has the merit of being permanent and obviating the necessity of more frequently renewing of wood construction.

*Shingles.* The shingle question is still unsettled. The Vice Regents for Texas and Mississippi have canvassed the cypress country thoroughly and have put me in communication with several parties signifying readiness to undertake the manufacture of what we need, but the specifications call for shingles of dimensions and finish different from present day commercial requirements, and for this reason it is hard to find men willing to do this special class of work. All bidders for the contract appear to have dropped out except the North Carolina Lumber Company. While their price is higher than some of the others, I am forced to the conclusion that this chance being the only one in sight had best be availed of, as the need for shingles is urgent.

*Roofing Implement Sheds.* At last Council I asked for an appropriation of \$500.00 for lengthening and reroofing storage sheds. This was not expended because of failure of contractor to procure the Toncan metal roofing agreed upon. The old second-hand tin with which the sheds were originally covered leaks badly and it is not worth repairing. I would ask that this appropriation be made available this year.

Sincerely appreciating your kind consideration, I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Yours obediently,

HARRISON H. DODGE,  
Resident Secretary and Superintendent.

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## REGENT'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT

General Account—Revenue .....	\$38,346.20
Expenditures .....	34,265.90
Balance in Bank.....	\$ 4,080.30
Contingent Fund—Balance in Bank.....	\$ 1,466.11

## GARDENER'S REPORT

**LADIES:** In submitting my annual report I must express my sincere gratification that the severe winter dealt so kindly with us. To be sure, the effects are plainly visible, but compared with many places we are very, very lucky. Time, I think, will remedy all the bad effects.

I have the past year planted numbers of hollyhocks, sweet Williams, wall flowers, snap dragons, etc. The oleander plants sent by Mrs. Maxey and Mrs. Wilder will greatly add to the beauty of our borders.

The year has not been a successful one from the sales standpoint. The severe winter weather was a great handicap.

Total sales .....	\$529.65
Expended for postage, etc.....	8.90

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Cash to Superintendent.....\$520.75

That you may have an intimate knowledge of the source of receipts I send herewith a statement:

Plants by express.....	\$ 47.15
By mail .....	36.20
Sold here .....	264.20
Cut flowers .....	122.85
Seed .....	59.25

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Total .....	\$529.65
Expended for postage, etc.....	8.90

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Cash to Superintendent.....\$520.75

This is the thirty-second year of my continuous service—more than half of my life. I cannot refrain from expressing my thanks for the encouragement so kindly given me, and assuring you of my unabated, increased love for Mount Vernon. The knowledge that I had the confidence and good will of the thirty-two ladies who have died since I have been here (only three are now alive—Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Hudson and Miss Longfellow) as in retrospect I remember their kindly words and gracious acts, seems to be like a sweet benediction, and I thank our Heavenly Father that in my humble way and work I may have merited their friendship and good will.

With renewed thanks and a heart full of gratitude that their successors have found me worthy of commendation, I am, dear ladies,

Yours faithfully,

F. A. WHELAN,  
Head Gardener.

## RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1911

To Dulany-Vernay Company, Baltimore:

Printing 500 reports and 60 copies of minutes.....	\$200.00
For 500 extra copies of reports, ordered by Council.....	58.75

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**\$258.75**

By cheque from Regent.....	\$258.75
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### *Office Expenses.*

Typewriting .....	\$ 25.00
Packages to Vice Regents.....	9.74
Freight on box to Mount Vernon.....	.76
Postage on announcements and single copies of Reports....	3.00

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**\$ 38.50**

Balance .....	11.50
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**\$ 50.00**

Respectfully submitted,

**FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS,**

Secretary to Council.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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### REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

This Committee reports having carefully examined the financial reports of the Regent, the Treasurer, the Superintendent and the Gardener. The Committee has also compared the receipts and expenditures and vouchers as stated in the Superintendent's books and find them entirely correct.

Total revenues .....	\$38,346.20
Total expenditures .....	34,265.90
<hr/>	
Balance of General Account.....	\$ 4,080.30
Balance of Contingent Fund.....	1,466.11
Balance of cash on hand of Endowment Fund..	2,925.97
<hr/>	
	\$ 8,472.38

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Chairman.  
 EMMA R. BALL.  
 CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM.  
 GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.  
 ANNE C. A. BROWN.  
 ELIZA F. LEARY.

### REPORT OF MANSION COMMITTEE.

The Mansion Committee reports the Mansion in excellent order. Nothing needed, except to change the paper on the ceiling of the upper hall, making it more harmonious with that of the side walls.

The floor of General Washington's bedroom has been put in better order.

The rooms of the office should be freshly calcimined; the walls and ceiling of the kitchen, which are painted, should be scrubbed; the room at the North Gate should be painted; a screen partition should be made in the bathroom and other small alterations made.

MARGARETTA BARRET, Chairman.  
 JULIA M. ANDREWS.  
 FRANCES C. MAXEY.  
 ALICE H. RICHARDS.

### REPORT OF FURNITURE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee has examined the furniture in the Mansion and find it in fairly good condition.

The Committee recommends that woodwork of sofas in main hall be oiled.

The Committee suggests that as the new By-Laws adopted by this Council require that a book be kept in which description of the furniture shall be entered, the Superintendent be instructed to procure such book and enter therein all historic furniture in the Mansion, with date and history attached.

Respectfully submitted.

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM, Chairman.  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.  
ALICE D. IRWIN.  
AMY TOWNSEND.  
EMMA R. BALL.  
ELIZA F. LEARY.  
MARY EVARTS.  
LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON.

### REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The Library Committee met on the evening of the 15th and examined and dusted all the books in the library. They are all well cared for, but the backs of some are broken and should be repaired.

Miss Longfellow, chairman of this committee, who was unavoidably absent from the meeting, recommends some expert known to her for this work, and we would suggest that this matter be left to her judgment.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Acting Chairman.  
MARY POLK YEATMAN WEBB.  
LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON.  
MARY F. FAILING.  
SARAH PENDLETON VAN RENSSELAER.  
MARY EVARTS.

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS, TREES AND SHRUBS.

Your Committee begs leave to report the following result of last year's work and of the suggestions for the coming year's improvements.

The road from the Tomb to the wharf has been covered with gravel, which greatly diminishes the dust. The road from the second culvert to the housekeeper's house has been gravelled and greatly improved.

The "Hell Hole" drainage has been completed. The upper ditch is now a covered drain of 6-inch pipes, with gravelled joints, which drains off the water from the hillsides and surface water and renders the reclaimed marsh a fine piece of meadow land.

The space in front of the Spinning House, where it has been impossible to keep any grass and was an ugly feature in the otherwise neat surroundings, has been paved with brick and is now much improved.

The liberality of the Vice Regent for Missouri has restored 100 feet of the brick wall at the North Lodge Gate.

We would particularly call attention to the vistas opened to the West Lodge Gate, and others that offer views of the river, which add to the picturesque effect of the grounds.

For this, as for many other proofs of taste and judgment, we are indebted to our Superintendent.

There has been much dead wood taken from the fir trees around the Tomb. In fact the severe winter has necessitated much trimming of shrubs and trees. The privet hedges seem to be nearly dead, but we advise cutting them to within one foot of the ground and hope that this will restore vitality. Our box hedges have better resisted the severe cold and promise well. The wild Barberry hedges show no sign of injury from the zero weather and are very handsome.

An ash tree in front of the Garden Gate, which was planted by Washington, is badly damaged. We propose having the body of the tree thoroughly cleaned and filled with cement, which has proved to be a successful way to restore old trees.

We would advise the removal of stumps of trees in the Deer Park, and the planting of trees that were there in Washington's life.

Also the trimming of the old poplar on the side of the road to wharf and planting ivy to conceal the loss of the limbs. We would like to have a young poplar near this old tree.

The willows on the hillside by the river are in fine growth; these are all from cuttings from the "Napoléon" tree from St. Helena.

We would beg to have two boxwood bushes planted in front of the office to replace those destroyed by the winter.

All of the *Eunonymus* plants are killed.

To preserve the ivy roots from being torn up the beds are to be covered with a coarse wire netting.

The Vice Regent for Alabama offers to provide magnolias for planting here, which offer is accepted with thanks.

We would suggest the planting of more lilacs in clumps.

Planting azalias near the Tomb would be advisable; also putting out Rhododendrons on the "Cemetery Lot."

Assorted *Lupinus* planted in any exposed bed would be a pretty feature in the grounds.

The trimming of trees and all details of planting we leave to the excellent judgment of the Superintendent.

This is no small responsibility, for the sixty trees destroyed in the storm of 1898 will require years to repair the loss.

We would ask permission to place a signboard marked "To the Tomb" on the road near the Butler's House, for the convenience of visitors who continually inquire where to find the Tomb.

We would chronicle the success of the seventy (70) shrubs and trees, the gift of the Vice Regent for Illinois, which have been so carefully planted by an expert, by her order, as to be all growing well beside the new wall. These consist of 20 *Mahonia Aquifolia*, 20 *Ilex Aquifolia*, 20 *Azaleas* and 10 *Ancuba Japonicas*.

SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON, Chairman.

MARY LEITER.

AMY TOWNSEND.

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM.

MARGARETTA BARRET.

ALICE D. IRWIN.

FRANCES C. MAXEY.

ANNE C. A. BROWN.

## REPORT OF GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE.

The Committee finds everything in as good condition in the Garden and Greenhouse department as was possible, after a long drought last summer, which left the shrubs and plants in a debilitated condition, which was followed by an extremely cold winter, which did great injury to the box hedges.

Great exertions on the part of the Head Gardener and employees prevented the injury from being as great as in other localities in the neighborhood. It is hoped that the injury will be repaired in a year or two.

Examination by experts the past year of the conditions of the soil, and the fact of the garden being shaded by high walls and trees, make it evident that we cannot compete with florists who use the most approved methods in the cutting of roses and other delicate plants. But the hardier roses and plants can be successfully grown. The old Persian rose and the York and Lancaster rose are sturdy enough to hold their own with the box, which draws largely upon the soil and fills it with innumerable roots.

The recommendations are:

1. To use cow manure and air-slacked lime to enrich the garden.
2. That wire netting be used for the protection of the ivy borders.

A gift of phlox (pink, white and lavender) is promised by the Vice Regent for Rhode Island.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Chairman.  
 GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.  
 AMY TOWNSEND.  
 FRANCES C. MAXEY.  
 ANNE C. A. BROWN.  
 SARAH P. VAN RENSSELAER.

### REPORT OF THE KITCHEN GARDEN COMMITTEE.

This Committee takes pleasure in reporting the Kitchen Garden to be in perfect order.

The vegetables, owing to the backward growing season, are late, but this fact rather gives an opportunity to note the careful working of the ground and preparations to encourage growth and production.

We have had since this Council began asparagus, onions, lettuce, spinach and mint from the garden, and before we adjourn, if there come sun and warmth, we shall have strawberries.

The Gardener thanks the Committee of last year for its kindly consideration of his work and has no requests to make for this year.

AMY TOWNSEND, Chairman.  
 ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.  
 LIZZIE J. JOHNSTON.  
 ELIZA F. LEARY.  
 JULIA M. ANDREWS.  
 MARY F. FAILING.

### REPORT OF FARM COMMITTEE.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather, which has prevented the Committee from making an inspection of the Farm, and as the report of the agricultural conditions has been made by the Superintendent in his report, your committee can give no further account of it.

MARY YEATMAN WEBB, Chairman.  
 GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.  
 ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.  
 MARGARETTA BARRET.  
 FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS.  
 ANNE C. A. BROWN.



### REPORT OF TOMB COMMITTEE.

The Tomb Committee finds the vines at the Tomb quite a good deal injured by the severity of the winter, and as they look very ragged now it is deemed wise not to trim them until it is quite certain as to whether the wood is entirely dead. The grass on the embankment on each side of the brick pavement leading to the Tomb is not looking as neat and trim as the Committee would like to see it. Everything else is in good condition.

The Guard, Robert Carter, at the Tomb puts in a plea to have a notice placed at the approach to the Tomb requesting the men to remove their hats at the gate, as it is often embarrassing for him to make the request.

It is recommended that the guardhouse be repainted, and the doors of the Tomb also.

CHRISTINE BLAIR GRAHAM, Chairman.  
GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.  
EMMA R. BALL.  
FRANCES C. MAXEY.  
SARAH P. VAN RENSSELAER.

### REPORT OF RELIC COMMITTEE.

The Committee has gone over the relics, dusted them carefully and replaced them, returning the keys to all cases to the care of the Superintendent. Found all relics in good order.

GEORGIA PAGE WILDER, Chairman.  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.  
FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS.  
MARGARETTA BARRET.  
CHRISTINE B. GRAHAM.  
MARY YEATMAN WEBB.  
AMY TOWNSEND.  
ALICE H. RICHARDS.

### REPORT OF RECORD COMMITTEE.

Your Committee has little to report for the last year.

There is a manuscript report of our early Council in the handwriting of Mrs. Eve, which is curious and interesting, but not as complete as we would like.

The filing of the quantity of newspaper excerpts in a scrap book is not yet finished, but will be presented at next Council.

ELIZA F. LEARY, Chairman.  
SUSAN E. JOHNSON HUDSON.  
MARGARETTA BARRET.

### REPORT OF BY-LAWS COMMITTEE.

After careful study and consideration the By-Laws were revised, submitted to Council and favorably acted upon.

These By-Laws should not require further action for some time to come.

ELIZA F. LEARY, Chairman.  
ANNE C. A. BROWN.

### REPORT OF GUIDE BOOK COMMITTEE.

The revised edition of the Guide Book having been submitted by the acting chairman, Mrs. Flandrau, to the Council of 1911, and the edition having been exhausted, a second one was ordered to supply the demand.

The following recommendations are made by the Committee:

1st. That a photograph of Mount Vernon as it was in 1858, when it came into possession of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, be inserted in the Guide Book.

2d. The correction of errors and a few changes made which have occurred since the publication of the Guide Book.

3d. That a new photograph of General Washington's room be placed in the Guide Book after the changes contemplated by the Furniture Committee have been made.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY YEATMAN WEBB, Chairman.  
ALICE D. IRWIN.  
MARY F. FAILING.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION OF WASHINGTON RELICS.

The Committee reports a number of interesting relics. A bookcase that belonged to Mary Washington, which was devised in her will to her grandson, Fielding Lewis, from whom it has descended in direct line to John C. Lewis, of Louisville, Kentucky, is recommended for acquisition. The bookcase has been valued at \$600; half of this amount is contributed by Mr. Lewis, through the Vice Regent for Kentucky, so that the Association can procure the bookcase for \$300.

The Vice Regent for Kentucky presents interesting photographs of General and Mrs. Washington; of Washington's fishing tackle, and of Washington's headquarters at Lambertsville, N. J. The Vice Regent

for Kentucky brings to Council an original letter from Mrs. Betty Bennet Bassett, presented by Mrs. Simon Bolivar Buckner, which establishes the genuineness of the Washington-Ball Bible.

*The Mary Ball Washington Bell.* A very handsome bronze bell that belonged to Mary Ball Washington and was sold with other household effects in Fredericksburg after her death, is presented by Mr. Frank Watter, of Washington. The bell was made in Holland and bears the date 1667.

*Relics presented through the Vice Regent for New York.* A decanter, which belonged to Washington, and which is given by Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan. A map of the Battles of Gloucester, at which Lafayette and Cornwallis were the commanding officers of the opposing forces, given by Mr. Clarence Mackay. A pincushion, embroidered by Martha Washington, given by Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Hamlin.

*Miss Adkins' Relics.* A handsome Canton china mug, which belonged to General Washington and subsequently to Dr. David Stuart, his friend, from whom it has come by inheritance to Miss Adkins, his great-granddaughter; also a small mug that belonged to Nellie Custis, and a razor that was given by Washington to Dr. David Stuart. The Vice Regent for North Carolina presents the razor, valued at \$50, and the Vice Regent for Oregon presents the two mugs, which have been valued at \$150.

The original grant given by Lord Culpeper in 1674 of 5,000 acres of land to John Washington and Nicholas Spencer will be secured for Mount Vernon through the contributions of the Vice Regent for California, who contributes \$500; the Vice Regent for Maryland, who contributes \$300, and the Vice Regent for Michigan, who contributes \$200 towards its purchase.

The total amount of appropriations asked for by the Committee is \$350. An appropriation was made last year for relics of \$250, which was not called for. The appropriations asked for this year will only be \$100 in addition.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Chairman.  
 GEORGIA PAGE WILDER.  
 EMMA R. BALL.  
 ANNE C. A. BROWN.  
 MARY YEATMAN WEBB.  
 MARY F. FAILING.

#### REPORT OF POST-CARD COMMITTEE.

This Committee recommends to Council to give an order to the Detroit Publishing Company for a colored print of the garden, and

also for monotinted post cards, if the company consents to copyright the photographs and cards for the Association.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Chairman.  
AMY TOWNSEND.  
MARY F. FAILING.

### REPORT OF PRESS COMMITTEE.

The Press Committee reports having given daily information to the Washington press of the occurrences of interest during this session of Council, and of the interesting relics presented or purchased by the Association.

ELIZABETH B. A. RATHBONE, Chairman.  
MARGARETTA BARRET.  
ELIZABETH W. ALLSTON PRINGLE.  
MARY YEATMAN WEBB.

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### GOVERNOR'S DAY AT MOUNT VERNON.

Weather was the crucial question for the success of the reception given at Mount Vernon to the Governor of Virginia and the delegates of the Virginia Legislature. Fortunately, the sun shone most of the time and the intermittent clouds and shadows only enhanced the beauty of the lawns and the river.

The usual official guests were augmented by a large company of distinguished Virginians, who took this occasion to emphasize their appreciation of the work done for Virginia and the Nation in the restoration of Washington's old home by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, who were the special guests of the Regent and Vice Regents.

The Governor and Board of Visitors were:

Governor and Mrs. Mann.  
Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Ellyson.  
Judge L. L. Lewis.  
Colonel and Mrs. McAdams.  
Mr. Warren Taylor.  
Mr. A. D. Brockett.  
Colonel Benj. Owen, Secretary to Governor Mann, and Mrs. Owen.

In preparation for the reception of the Virginia visitors and other guests the Banquet Hall, which is used by the Board of Regents during their annual meeting at Mount Vernon as a Council chamber, was quickly transformed into a reception hall. The long table was short-

ened up to the length of a dining table and was ornamented with General Washington's silver plateau, upon which were placed tall vases filled with spring flowers, peonies, syringa and vines from Martha Washington's garden.

The Hall is of noble proportions and was a fitting place for the reception of Virginia's representative men, who were moved by a patriotic sentiment to leave other pressing interests and to come for the day to Mount Vernon to do honor to Washington and the guardians of his home and Tomb.

After the reception by the Regent and Vice Regents in the Banquet Hall, luncheon was served in the library and the family dining-room and Mrs. Washington's sitting-room to the guests.

The Virginia visitors left on a special train at 4 P. M., and expressed enthusiastic enjoyment of the day at Mount Vernon, and appreciation of the perfect condition in which everything was found.

The Washington guests remained an hour longer and strolled about the grounds or chatted on the East Portico.

A beautiful wreath was sent down from Washington by order of the Detroit Society, in aid of the Vice Regent for Michigan in her work for Mount Vernon, to be laid on the Tomb on this day.

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The following communication was presented to Council and received with grateful acknowledgments:

(Resolution).

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY ASSOCIATION.**

*To the Legislature of Virginia,  
Richmond, Virginia.*

WHEREAS, The agitation of an antifee association has crystallized into a protest against the present charge of admission to Mount Vernon; and

WHEREAS, The restoration, present beauty and successful management of the Washington Estate typifies the splendid patriotism of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association; and

WHEREAS, The founders of this association worked assiduously in all sections for contributions to purchase the property, and have since maintained it through the small charge of admission; be it therefore

*Resolved*, That the George Washington Birthday Association, in' meeting assembled, enter its vigorous protest against the objects of the Antifree Association, and earnestly request the Legislature of Virginia to take action adverse to any change in the present management of Mount Vernon, which is now under the direct supervision of a Board of Visitors appointed by the Governor of Virginia.

Signed: E. E. DOWNHAM, President.

ROBERT S. JONES.

ALBERT D. BROCKETT.

FREDERICK J. PAFF.

J. Y. WILLIAMS.

Committee.

The Regent and Vice Regents were much touched by the following letter from Mr. Paul Kester, of Gunston Hall, near Mount Vernon, in which he pays a beautiful tribute to the founder and First Regent of the Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association:

GUNSTON HALL, FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA.

MY DEAR MISS COMEGYS:

Miss Cunningham's great work is so dear to you and to the ladies associated with you in the care and preservation of Mount Vernon that we hope you may approve of the memorial pew which it is the intention of those in this neighborhood who admire and venerate Miss Cunningham to place in Pohick Church. It seems particularly suitable that Miss Cunningham's name, indelibly associated as it is with Mount Vernon, should be permanently recorded in Pohick Church, which is so linked by its past with the name of Washington.

It will, I know, please you and the ladies associated with you to learn that many have contributed toward this memorial—a local society as well as individuals—and to know that even the little children have had a share in it.

We have all felt that we honored ourselves in remembering Miss Cunningham, and we have hoped that this simple tribute may serve to keep a noble example clearly before the eyes of those of this neighborhood who for generations to come will profit peculiarly by the work she did. It is our privilege to live in the shadow—and the sunshine of Mount Vernon at all times—so wonderfully has your association preserved the spirit of the place—almost we feel in the noble presence of Washington himself.

If the memorial to Miss Cunningham which we are to place in Pohick Church meets with your approval and with the approval of the ladies associated with you, we shall be very happy.

Faithfully yours,

For the subscribers.

PAUL KESTER.

The visit of the Delegates of the International Red Cross Conference to Mount Vernon was an occasion of more than usual interest. Twenty-three countries were represented—making one realize as never before the vast extent of this wonderful organization; working in the cause of humanity and for the relief of suffering. In this great concourse of Nations, speaking many foreign tongues, there was not one who did not take an intelligent interest in the Home of Washington, and their reverence was manifested by laying a beautiful wreath upon the sarcophagus.

The following letter from Miss Mabel Boardman was received by the Regent:

**AMERICAN RED CROSS.**

**Washington, D. C.**

June 8, 1912.

MISS HARRIET CLAYTON COMEGYS,

"The Green," Dover, Delaware.

DEAR MISS COMEGYS:

Pardon so late an acknowledgment of the courtesy extended by yourself and the Vice Regents of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association to the Delegates to the International Red Cross Conference, but a pressure of work has prevented my writing before.

May I express to you, and through you to the other ladies, the sincere appreciation and thanks of the foreign delegates and, also, of the American Red Cross officers for this courtesy?

No part of their stay in Washington was more enjoyed or found of more interest by the foreign delegates than their visit to the Home of Washington. With cordial regards,

Yours sincerely,  
MABEL T. BOARDMAN.

By far, the most interesting document that has been acquired by the Association for some time, is the original grant of land (5,000 acres) from Lord Culpeper to John Washington and Nicholas Spencer in 1674. Through the efforts of the Chairman of the Investigation of Relics Committee, it was secured for \$1,000, larger sums having been refused by the owner, who preferred having it at Mt. Vernon. Three States contributed to the purchase—California giving \$500, Maryland \$300 and Michigan \$200.

The Council of 1912 adjourned Saturday, May 18th, to meet the second Thursday in May, 1913.

FRANCES JOHNSON ROGERS,

Secretary to Councils.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

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*Finance*—Mrs. Graham, chairman; Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Foster.

*Mansion*—Mrs. Harrison, chairman; Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Ricks, Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Barret.

*Furniture*—Mrs. Rathbone, chairman; Miss Townsend, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Graham.

*Library*—Mrs. Van Rensselaer, chairman; Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Johnston, Miss Failing, Mrs. Webb, Miss Evarts, Miss Longfellow, Mrs. Conover.

*Grounds and Shrubs*—Mrs. Barret, chairman; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Maxey, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Leiter, Mrs. Hudson.

*Garden and Greenhouse*—Mrs. Maxey, chairman; Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Wilder, Mrs. Leiter, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Rathbone.

*Kitchen Garden*—Miss Townsend, chairman; Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Andrews, Miss Failing, Mrs. Ricks, Mrs. Harrison.

*Farm*—Mrs. Webb, chairman; Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Hearst, Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Ricks, Mrs. Pringle.

*Tomb*—Mrs. Wilder, chairman; Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Rathbone, Miss Longfellow.

*Relics*—Mrs. Pringle, chairman; Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Graham, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Hearst, Miss King.

*Records*—Miss Longfellow, chairman; Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Hudson, Miss Evarts, Mrs. Ricks.

*By-Laws*—Mrs. Manderson, chairman; Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Rathbone.

*Parliamentary Rules*—Mrs. Leiter, chairman; Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Leary, Miss Evarts.



*Guide Book*—Mrs. Irwin, chairman; Miss Failing, Mrs. Manderson, Miss Longfellow, Mrs. Webb.

*Post Cards*—Miss Failing, chairman; Mrs. Richards, Miss Townsend, Miss King, Mrs. Rathbone.

*Investigation of Washington Relics*—Mrs. Ball, chairman; Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Rathbone, Miss King.

*Press*—Mrs. Brown, chairman; Mrs. Ricks, Mrs. Manderson, Mrs. Richards, Miss King.

*Index to Minutes*—Mrs. Hudson, chairman; Mrs. Barret, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Leary.

## THE FAREWELL ADDRESS

### OF THE FOUNDER AND FIRST REGENT OF THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION

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**T**O the Council of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of June, 1874. Ladies: It was my intention, as well as my duty, to have met you at this time and conformed in person to the legal requisition accompanying a resignation so important as mine, but Providence does not permit.

But in parting, I feel it due to you, as to me; to the responsibilities I solemnly assumed, which were so important in their results; to those you have taken upon yourselves; to say a few words as to those responsibilities or duties, laid down in the beginning of our work, not to be lightly regarded, for they were pledges to future generations as well as to ours. The minds and hearts which conceived the rescue of the home of Washington; of the completion of a worthy "tribute" to public integrity and private virtue; an expression of the gratitude due and felt by a country destined to act such an important part in the drama of the world; conceived it with all the reverence felt in older regions for the resting places of their honored dead; where only pious hands are permitted to be in "charge," so as to have them carried down to admiring ages in the same condition as when left.

Such was the pledge made to the American heart when an appeal was made to it to save the home and tomb of Washington, the Father of his Country, from all change, whether by law or desecration. Such, to the last owner of Mount Vernon, ere he was willing to permit it to pass from his hands. Such to the Legislature of his Mother State, ere she gave us legal rights over it. Such are we bound to keep. Our honor is concerned, as well as our intelligence and legal obligations. The mansion and the grounds around it should be religiously guarded from change—should be kept as Washington left them.

Ladies, the home of Washington is in your charge—see to it that you keep it the home of Washington. Let no irreverent hand change it; no vandal hands desecrate it with the fingers of progress! Those who go to the home in which he lived and died wish to see in what he lived and died. Let one spot in this grand country of ours be saved from change! Upon you rests this duty.

When the Centennial comes, bringing with it its thousands from the ends of the earth, to whom the home of Washington will be the place of places in our country, let them see that, though we slay our forests, remove our dead, pull down our churches, remove from home to home, till the hearthstone seems to have no resting place in America, let them see that we do know how to care for the home of our Hero! Farewell!

Ladies, I return to your hands the office so long held—since December 2, 1853.

Respectfully,

June 1, 1874.

ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM.

## THE REGENTS AND VICE REGENTS OF THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION

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Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, Regent, 1853-1873.

Resigned 1873; died May 1, 1875.

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### VICE REGENTS APPOINTED 1858.

1. Mrs. Anna Cora Ogden Ritchie, resigned 1866.....Virginia
2. Mrs. Alice H. Dickinson, resigned 1859.....North Carolina
3. Mrs. Philoclea Edgeworth Eve, died 1889.....Georgia
4. Mrs. Octavia Walton LeVert, died 1877.....Alabama
5. Mrs. Catharine A. MacWillie, died 1872.....Mississippi
6. Mrs. Margaretta S. Morse, resigned 1872.....Louisiana
7. Mrs. Mary Rutledge Fogg, died 1872.....Tennessee
8. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Walton, resigned 1858.....Missouri
9. Miss Mary Morris Hamilton, resigned 1866.....New York
10. Mrs. Louisa Ingersoll Greenough, resigned 1865....Massachusetts
11. Mrs. Abba Isabella Little, resigned 1866.....Maine
12. Mrs. Catherine Willis Murat, died 1867.....Florida
13. Mrs. Mary Bootes Goodrich, resigned 1864.....Connecticut
14. Miss Phebe Ann Ogden, died 1867.....New Jersey
15. Mrs. Alice Key Pendleton, resigned 1863, died 1885.....Ohio
16. Mrs. Abby Wheaton Chace, died 1892.....Rhode Island
17. Mrs. Jane Maria Van Antwerp, died.....Iowa
18. Mrs. Margaret Ann Comegys, died 1888.....Delaware
19. Mrs. Hannah Blake Farnsworth, died 1879.....Michigan
20. Mrs. Sarah King Hale, resigned 1861.....New Hampshire
21. Mrs. Martha Mitchell, died 1902.....Wisconsin
22. Mrs. Rosa Vertner Johnson Jeffreys, died 1894.....Kentucky
- Mrs. Janet M. E. Riggs, Acting Vice Regent..District of Columbia

1859.

23. Mrs. Elizabeth Willard Barry, died 1883.....Illinois
24. Mrs. Sarah J. Sibley, died 1869.....Minnesota
25. Mrs. Mary Pepperell Jarvis Cutts, resigned 1878.....Vermont
26. Mrs. Lilly Lytle Macalester, died 1891.....Pennsylvania

- 27. Mrs. Magadelan G. Blanding, resigned 1884.....California
- 28. Mrs. Harriet B. Fitch, died 1880.....Indiana
- 29. Mrs. Sarah H. Johnson, died 1866.....Arkansas
- 30. Mrs. Letitia Harper Walker, died 1908.....North Carolina

## 1860.

- 31. Mrs. Ann Lucas Hunt, died 1878.....Missouri
- 32. Mrs. Mary Chestnut, died 1867.....South Carolina

## 1866.

- 33. Mrs. Margaret J. M. Sweet, died 1908.....Maine
- 34. Mrs. Emily L. Harper, died 1891.....Maryland
- 35. Miss Lucy H. Pickens, died August, 1899.....South Carolina
- 36. Mrs. M. E. Hickman, resigned 1874.....Nevada
- 37. Mrs. M. A. Stearns, resigned 1873.....New Hampshire
- 38. Mrs. Emily R. M. Hewson, resigned 1872.....Ohio
- 39. Miss Ella Hutchins, resigned 1872.....Texas

## 1867.

- 40. Mrs. Janet M. C. Riggs, resigned 1868....District of Columbia
- 41. Mrs. Maria Brooks, resigned 1876.....New York
- 42. Mrs. Matilda W. Emory, resigned 1873.....District of Columbia

## 1868.

- 43. Mrs. Nancy Wade Halsted, died 1891.....New Jersey
- 44. Mrs. Nannie C. Yulee, died 1884.....Florida

## 1870.

- 45. Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson.....Connecticut
- 46. Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, died 1898.....West Virginia

## 1872.

- 47. Mrs. Betsy C. Mason, died 1873.....Virginia
- 48. Mrs. A. P. Dillon, resigned 1873, died 1898.....Iowa
- 49. Mrs. C. L. Scott, resigned 1878.....Arkansas

## 1873.

- 50. Mrs. William Balfour, resigned 1875.....Mississippi
- 51. Mrs. Mary T. Barnes, died 1912.....District of Columbia
- 52. Mrs. David Urquhart, resigned 1876.....Louisiana
- 53. Mrs. M. E. Maverick, resigned 1873.....Texas

(This was the last appointment of Miss Cunningham, First Regent).

**MRS. LILY M. BERGHMAN.**

(Made Acting Regent 1873, and Regent June, 1874.)

Second Regent.

Died 1891.

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**Vice Regents Appointed 1874.**

54. Mrs. Emma Reed Ball.....Virginia  
55. Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, died 1889.....Tennessee

1875.

56. Mrs. Lily L. Broadwell, died 1889.....Ohio  
57. Mrs. John P. Jones, resigned 1876.....Nevada

1876.

58. Mrs. Jennie Meeker Ward, died 1910.....Kansas  
59. Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend.....New York

1878.

60. Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, resigned 1884.....Vermont

1879.

61. Miss Alice Longfellow.....Massachusetts  
62. Mrs. Robert Campbell, died 1882.....Missouri

1880.

63. Mrs. Ida A. Richardson, died 1910.....Louisiana

1882.

64. Mrs. Ella S. Herbert, died 1884.....Alabama

1885.

65. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Adams Rathbone.....Michigan  
66. Mrs. Mary T. Leiter.....Illinois  
67. Mrs. Janet Dekay King, died 1896.....Vermont  
68. Mrs. Elizabeth Woodward, died 1897.....Kentucky

1888.

69. Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys.....Delaware  
70. Mrs. Fannie Gilchrist Baker, died 1901.....Florida

1889.

71. Mrs. Alice Hill, died 1908.....Colorado  
72. Mrs. Rebecca B. Flandrau, died 1912.....Minnesota  
73. Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst.....California

1890.

74. Mrs. A. R. Winder, died 1906.....New Hampshire

1891.

75. Mrs. Georgia Page Wilder.....Georgia  
(This was the last nomination of Mrs. Lily Macalester Laughton,  
second Regent (Madame Berghman), who died Nov. 4, 1891.)

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**MRS. JUSTINE VAN RENSSELAER TOWNSEND.**

**Third Regent.**

(Elected temporary Regent December, 1891, and Regent June, 1892.)

Resigned May, 1909.

Died April, 1912.

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**Vice Regents Appointed 1893.**

76. Mrs. George R. Goldsborough, resigned 1904; died 1906..Maryland  
77. Mrs. J. Dundas Lippincott, died 1894.....Pennsylvania  
78. Mrs. Mary Lloyd Pendleton, resigned 1897.....Ohio  
79. Mrs. Philip Schuyler, resigned 1894.....New York  
80. Mrs. Christine Blair Graham.....Missouri  
81. Mrs. Francis S. Conover.....New Jersey  
82. Mrs. Mary Polk Yeatman Webb.....Tennessee

1894.

83. Miss Leila Herbert, died 1897.....Alabama

1895.

84. Mrs. Robert H. Clarkson, resigned 1900; died 1902.....Nebraska  
85. Mrs. Wm. Ames, died 1904.....Rhode Island  
86. Miss Amy Townsend.....New York

1896.

87. Mrs. Chas. Custis Harrison.....Pennsylvania  
88. Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey.....Texas

1897.

89. Mrs. James Campbell, resigned 1902.....Ohio

1900.

90. Mrs. Robert D. Johnston.....Alabama  
91. Mrs. C. F. Manderson.....Nebraska  
92. Mrs. Eugene Van Rensselaer.....West Virginia

